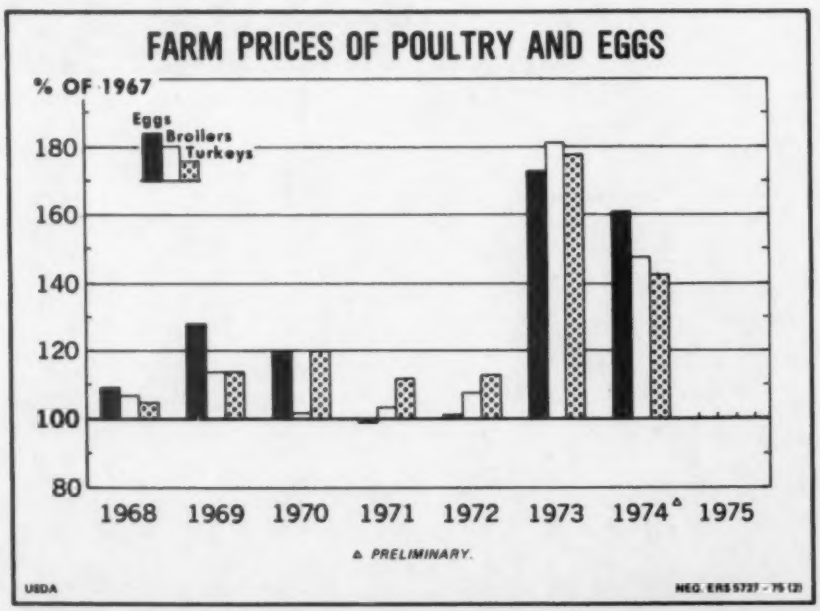
PES-285 MARCH 1975

POULTRY AND EGG Situation

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Table 1—Poultry and Egg Situation at a Glance

Item	Unit	1973-74				1974-75			
		Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
		Eggs							
Farm production	Mil. eggs	5,561	5,455	5,685	5,691	5,414	5,293	5,508	5,540
Average number of layers on farms	Mil.	293	289	297	296	280	283	285	284
Rate of lay per layer	No.	19.0	18.5	19.2	19.2	19.3	18.7	19.3	19.5
Frozen egg production	Mil. lb.	31.8	24.7	21.1	24.4	26.9	23.3	19.2	
Dried egg production	Mil. lb.	7.4	6.4	4.4	4.9	6.1	5.2	4.1	
Price received by farmers	Ct. per doz.	59.3	59.3	63.8	66.6	55.5	55.5	59.0	57.1
Retail price (BLS)									
Grade A large	Ct. per doz.	87.4	82.5	89.1	93.0	83.9	81.0	84.1	84.2
Price paid for laying feed	Dol. per ton	144	138	150	152	168	167	164	160
Egg-feed price ratio	Pounds	8.2	8.6	8.5	8.8	6.6	6.6	7.2	7.1
Stocks, first of month:									
Shell	Thous. cases	86.0	72.0	67.0	36.0	66.0	75.0	51.0	40.0
Frozen	Mil. lb.	52.6	54.1	48.5	57.2	66.2	65.3	60.1	54.5
Replacement chicks hatched	Mil.	46.0	40.3	35.3	35.5	35.5	32.7	31.5	35.0
		Poultry							
Federally inspected slaughter, cert.									
Broilers	Mil. lb.	733.5	641.7	588.2	713.9	686.9	524.5	589.6	31.8
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	272.6	269.9	174.6	97.3	261.1	215.2	119.9	41.6
Price at farm, live weight									
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	23.7	19.4	19.3	20.9	22.5	24.0	21.9	24.2
Chicken, excluding broilers	Ct. per lb.	19.3	19.8	15.9	13.5	9.6	10.2	10.9	9.2
Turkeys	Ct. per lb.	42.7	41.7	40.3	35.4	27.3	29.8	31.3	31.8
9-city wholesale broiler price	Ct. per lb.	40.0	34.4	36.1	39.7	39.3	41.9	40.7	41.6
Retail price (BLS)									
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	58.3	54.5	53.2	59.2	56.2	58.2	60.4	59.2
Turkeys	Ct. per lb.	90.5	89.6	86.4	56.4	71.2	71.0	68.9	70.8
Broiler-feed price	Dol. per ton	163	155	165	170	185	183	180	176
Broiler-feed price ratio	Pounds	2.9	2.5	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.8
Turkey-feed price	Dol. per ton	170	158	167	172	189	187	184	178
Turkey-feed price ratio	Pounds	5.0	5.3	4.8	4.1	2.9	3.2	3.4	3.6
Stocks, first of month:									
Broilers, fryers, roasters	Mil. lb.	27.6	33.2	31.5	33.4	35.6	35.7	36.4	35.9
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	350.7	450.5	321.1	281.0	529.5	553.8	370.8	273.8
Total poultry	Mil. lb.	460.1	576.6	465.6	430.6	718.3	742.4	552.5	453.1
Average weekly placement of broiler chicks in 21 States	Mil.	53.2	57.3	57.5	59.7	46.2	51.6	54.5	54.5



In This Issue

	Page
Poultry and Egg Situation at a Glance	2
Summary	3
Production Costs Ease	5
Meat Supplies	5
Eggs	6
Broilers	13
Turkeys	18
Special Article: Quarterly Production and Marketing Costs for Poultry and Eggs	26
Selected Poultry and Egg Statistics	29
List of Tables	35

Written by:
William E. Cathcart
and
Gerald R. Rector

Commodity Economics Division
Economic Research Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

Approved by
The Outlook and Situation Board
and Summary released
February 27, 1975

SUMMARY

Poultry and egg producers will continue to adjust to strong prices for feed in the first half of 1975. Feed ingredient prices have dropped from last year's peaks but are near year-earlier levels except prices of wheat and soybeans which are down sharply. Prices of feed will remain strong at least until 1975 crops are harvested.

Broiler and turkey meat will continue to compete with larger beef supplies this winter and spring. But pork supplies will be down and prices rising. Beef prices probably reached their low for the year in early 1975 and will increase in coming months as supplies of other meats decline.

Broiler and egg output will increase seasonally into spring but will remain well under a year earlier. Turkey output during the seasonally light production months of the first half of 1975 will also be down substantially. Broiler and turkey prices are expected to rise while egg prices likely will decline seasonally in the spring. In the second half of 1975 production of poultry and eggs will gain relative to year-earlier levels. However, the extent of this rise will depend on the financial condition of producers and prospects for larger 1975 corn and soybean crops.

Egg production in 1974 totaled 183 million cases, 1% below 1973 and the smallest since 1965. The drop in production was due to reduced layer numbers. The laying flock averaged about 2½% below 1973 levels and the lowest since 1938. Egg production continues lower in 1975 as layer numbers decline further below year-earlier levels. Janaury's egg output trailed January 1974 by 3% as a result of 4% fewer layers. However, eggs per layer continued higher. Production will increase seasonally in the spring but likely will average further below 1974 levels. Pullets for flock replacements will fall well below the previous year and the rate of lay likely will ease. Nearly 17% fewer egg-type chicks were hatched during August-January for flock replacements through midyear. In addition, eggs in incubators on February 1 were down 7%. This indicates that the laying flock will stay well below year-earlier levels through most of 1975.

Egg prices have dropped more than expected in early 1975. Much of the decline has resulted from sluggish demand for egg products. High prices for sugar and cooking oils have substantially reduced baking which in turn has reduced the demand for eggs. Prices likely will rebound prior to Easter (March 30) but decline seasonally in the spring. However, the spring price decline is not expected to be as large as in 1974.

Broiler meat output fell sharply last fall because of the cutback in broiler chick placements in the

The next issue of the *Poultry and Egg Situation* will be published in early June

summer when production costs for most producers rose above market prices for broilers. Output in federally inspected plants during October-December dropped to 8% below the same months of 1973.

Broiler chick placements during November were running 8-13% below the previous year. However, as feed prices eased, placements gained in December and January. Thus, marketings during January-March will be down around 8%. Output will increase seasonally in the spring but with prices hovering near the breakeven point and the uncertainty about future feed costs, producers are likely to hold production well below 1974 levels. Producers likely will expand output gradually later this year if feed prices stabilize or ease further and favorable prospects for 1975 crops develop. Output may reach or exceed year-earlier levels in the closing months of 1975.

Broilers prices did not show their usual seasonal decline last fall and have continued relatively strong in early 1975. Broiler prices have been strengthened in recent months by lower production of broilers, turkeys, and pork. But sharply higher beef production and eroding consumer pruchasing power have limited price gains. With lower output of meats, other than beef and veal, broiler prices should continue strong with some further rise in the spring and summer. Although beef supplies are expected to continue larger than a year earlier, prices of cattle may strengthen in coming months and average above 1974 levels, adding buoyancy to broiler prices.

Turkey meat production fell sharply in late 1974 after running substantially above year-earlier levels through the first 9 months of the year. For all of 1974, turkey meat output in federally inspected plants was nearly 3% greater than in 1973. Turkey stocks increased sharply during the first 3 quarters of 1974 and reached record levels on October 1. However, reduced production and strong consumer demand in the last quarter of 1974 reduced yearend stocks to slightly below a year earlier.

Turkey production during the seasonally light first half of 1975 will be well below 1974. September-January poult production, which will provide most of the production during this period, was 15% below a year earlier. Second half output will increase seasonally and may match or exceed 1974 levels in the fall. Turkey prices have weakened in early 1975 as consumer demand lags. Turkey prices likely will stablize near current levels, then strengthen in the spring and summer as supplies of turkey remain below a year ago. Spring and summer turkey prices probably will average well above last year.

Eggs, Poultry, and Livestock Production and changes from a year earlier

	1973				1974				1975[1]	
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II
Eggs (Mil. cases)	46.4	46.9	45.2	46.4	46.4	46.6	45.0	45.0	(44.2)	(43.8)
Percent change	-7	-4	-5	-1	0	-1	-1	-3	-5	-6
Broiler[2] (Mil. lbs.)	1,850	1,986	1,987	1,963	1,957	2,105	2,055	1,801	(1,800)	(1,940)
Percent change	-1	-3	-1	+4	+6	+6	+3	-8	-8	-8
Turkeys[2] (Mil. lbs.)	157	283	631	717	216	353	670	596	(185)	(285)
Percent change	+5	+6	-8	+3	+38	+25	+6	-17	-15	-20
Beef[3] (Mil. lbs.)	5,393	5,049	4,998	5,648	5,429	5,637	5,749	6,013	(5,900)	(5,800)
Percent change	0	-9	-10	-1	+1	+12	+15	+6	+9	+3
Pork[3] (Mil. lbs.)	3,262	3,178	2,791	3,347	3,370	3,540	3,247	3,431	(3,100)	(3,000)
Percent change	-7	-6	-9	-5	+3	+11	+16	+3	-8	-15

Egg, Poultry, and Livestock Prices

	1973				1974				1975[1]	
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II
Eggs, New York[4] (Cents/dozen)	50.1	51.9	69.7	67.3	67.5	45.9	56.0	63.4	(59-61)	(54-56)
Broilers, 9-City[5] (Cents/lb.)	37.1	42.3	52.6	36.9	39.3	35.3	37.7	40.7	(41-43)	(44-46)
Turkeys, New York[6] (Cents/lb.)	45.7	55.8	68.5	65.2	50.2	39.8	45.4	53.3	(47-49)	(50-52)
Choice Steers, Omaha (Dollars/100 lbs.)	43.17	46.00	49.04	40.20	45.40	39.52	44.21	38.28	(37-39)	(42-44)
Barrows and Gilts, 7 Markets (Dol./100 lbs.)	35.63	36.82	49.04	40.96	38.40	28.00	36.59	39.06	(39-41)	(41-43)

[1] Forecast. [2] Federally inspected slaughter. [3] Commercial Production. [4] Wholesale, Grade A large white. [5] Wholesale weighted average. [6] Wholesale, 8-16 pound young hens.

POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

PRODUCTION COSTS EASE

The costs of producing a pound of broiler, a pound of turkey, or a dozen eggs has declined from the high levels of last summer as a result of declining feed ingredient prices. Market prices of corn and soybean meal, the major ingredients of poultry rations, have dropped sharply since reaching their highs last year. For example, corn prices (No. 2 yellow at Chicago) reached $4 a bushel in late September but by late February were below $3 a bushel. Soybean meal (44% Decatur) declined from a peak of $175 a ton to around $115 a ton during the same period.

U.S. feed grain disappearance during the last quarter of calendar 1974 was down 18 percent from a year earlier. Both domestic use and exports declined by 18 percent. The decline in domestic feed use resulted from fewer cattle placements in feedlots, fewer hogs being raised, and a cutback in poultry production and fewer layers in egg producing flocks. Despite reduced grain use in recent months, feed grain supplies will remain tight and prices high until prospects for 1975 crops are firmed up. Any substantial increase in use, either for domestic feeding or for export, would very likely result in higher prices.

The product feed-price ratios (pounds of feed equal in value to 1 dozen eggs or a liveweight pound of broiler or turkey) improved for broilers and turkeys from mid-December to mid-January as feed prices eased and broiler and turkey prices rose. However, lower egg prices in mid-January more than offset the reduction in feed prices and the ratio for eggs dropped. The ratio for eggs was 7.1, down from 7.2 in December and 8.8 a year earlier; the broiler feed-price ratio at 2.8 was up from both December's 2.4 and January 1974's 2.5. The turkey ratio at 3.6 was up from 3.4 in December but below the 4.1 of a year earlier.

Feed prices in coming months will be strongly influenced both by current demand for feedstuffs and prospects for the 1975 feed crops. On January 1 farmers reported intentions to plant 77.4 million acres to corn, about the same as in 1974. They planned to plant slightly fewer acres to oats but more to sorghum and barley. If farmers carry out these planting intentions, about 124 million acres will be planted to feed grains in 1975, 1.5 million acres more than in 1974. With average planting and growing conditions in 1975, the prospective plantings could produce a record corn crop, and total feed grain production could exceed 1974's 165 million tons by 25 to 40 percent. Under these circumstances feed prices this fall likely would be substantially below 1974 levels. However, if poor weather of 1974 should recur, supplies would tighten and prices would rise.

Farmers indicated they would plant almost 58 million acres of soybeans in 1975. This would be 4 million acres more than were planted in 1974 and a million above the record 1973 plantings. With good growing conditions, soybean production would likely be at record levels in 1975. For a discussion of production and marketing cost of poultry and eggs in recent years, see article on page 26.

MEAT SUPPLIES

Larger Beef Supplies But Less Pork

Broiler and turkey meat this winter and spring will continue to compete with large beef supplies but reduced pork supplies. Beef production will remain above 1974 levels this winter but decline seasonally from last fall. Spring output of beef will continue above year-earlier levels but the gap likely will narrow as cattle are moved to grass instead of slaughter. Fed beef will continue to make up a smaller part of the total. Market hog inventories last December suggest pork supplies in the first half of 1975 may be the smallest in 9 years.

Prices for cattle and hogs probably will rise seasonally in the spring. Reduced supplies of pork, broilers, and turkeys will lend strength to prices of all meats. Fed cattle prices (choice steers, Omaha) could rise to the mid-$40's in the spring from the January lows of $34-$35 per 100 pounds. Hog prices will strengthen throughout most of the first half of 1975. Barrow and gilt prices (7 markets) are expected to range from $40-$45 per 100 pounds during the first half of 1975. This is well above the $38 and $28 for the first and second quarters of 1974.

Smaller Total Meat Supply to the Spring

Total commercial production of poultry and red meats (excluding lard) in 1974 totaled 48 billion pounds, dressed weight, up 6 percent from 1973. Most of the increase was in red meats. Poultry slaughter (chickens, turkeys, ducks, and other poultry) gained about ½ percent to 10.7 billion pounds or a little more than 22 percent of the total production of poultry and red meat. Beef and veal production increased 1.9 billion pounds to 23.3 billion and pork was up 8 percent to 13.6 billion pounds. Beef accounted for 48

percent and pork 28 percent of the total. Total lamb and mutton accounted for about 1 percent.

Commercial slaughter of most meats will be below a year earlier during the first half of 1975. First quarter output of all meats likely will total near January-March 1974 but April-June output may be down by 5 percent. The second quarter output of pork, broilers, and turkeys will be down sharply from a year earlier but this decline will be partly offset by an increase in beef output. Smaller total meat supplies in the spring than in 1974 will bolster all meat prices.

EGGS

Production Drops in 1974

Egg production in 1974 totaled 183 million cases, down 1 percent from 1973 and the lowest since 1965. The drop in production was due to a decline in layer numbers since the rate of lay was up. The Nation's laying flocks averaged 286 million birds in 1974, about 2½ percent below 1973 and the lowest since 1938. However, the rate of lay in 1974 was up about 1½ percent to a record 231 eggs per hen. This boosted the average gain a little over 3 eggs per hen from 1973.

Layers on farms and eggs produced

Calendar quarters	Number of layers		Eggs per layer		Eggs produced	
	1973	1974	1973	1974	1973	1974
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*No.*	*No.*	*Mil. cs.*	*Mil. cs.*
I	298	295	56.0	56.6	46.4	46.4
II	290	285	58.1	58.8	46.9	46.6
III	286	279	56.8	58.1	45.2	45.0
IV	295	283	56.6	57.5	46.4	45.0
Annual .	292	286	227.6	230.8	184.9	183.0

Production at the start of 1974 was slightly below 1973 and continued near year-earlier levels through August. However, a drop in layer numbers to 4 percent below year-earlier levels caused output in September-December to slip 3 percent below the same months of 1973.

Production Will Continue Down in 1975

Egg production in the first half of 1975 will be substantially below the same months of 1974. Output in January totaled 15.4 million cases, 3 percent below a year earlier. Production may decline further in coming months and average 5 percent or more below 1974 levels during the first half of 1975. This reflects record low layer numbers at the start of the year plus prospects for fewer pullets for flock replacements and a slackening in the rate of lay.

The Nation's laying flock has been declining since 1971. On January 1, 1975, the laying flock totaled 285 million birds. This was 4 percent below a year earlier,

Egg-type replacement hatch, by quarters, 1960-74

Year	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Year
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*
1960 ...	66.6	120.4	25.9	26.9	239.8
1961 ...	86.2	111.7	32.1	32.9	262.9
1962 ...	73.7	109.6	34.0	33.7	251.0
1963 ...	72.5	109.3	39.7	35.9	257.4
1964 ...	74.0	107.0	43.7	39.5	264.2
1965 ...	63.9	94.5	45.3	40.8	244.5
1966 ...	71.1	106.0	53.2	54.4	284.7
1967 ...	76.1	95.2	52.3	43.8	267.4
1968 ...	62.9	83.3	55.9	55.1	257.2
1969 ...	66.0	83.6	58.8	56.5	264.9
1970 ...	78.9	92.5	57.5	56.6	285.5
1971 ...	70.5	87.1	57.0	49.1	263.7
1972 ...	64.4	73.9	56.0	51.3	245.7
1973 ...	66.1	77.0	63.2	60.8	267.1
1974 ...	59.6	74.7	51.8	49.8	236.0

13 percent below January 1, 1971, and the lowest on record for the date. Layer numbers will drop further below year-earlier levels in coming months because of fewer replacement pullets.

High production costs and poor profitability in 1974, combined with a great deal of uncertainty about prospects for 1975, caused producers to sharply cut their hatchery activity for flock replacements for the first half of 1975. The hatch of egg-type chicks during the second half of 1974 was 18 percent below a year earlier (table 2). These chicks will reach laying age in January-June. The hatch of egg-type chicks 5-6 months earlier is a fairly good indicator of the number of replacement pullets.

The annual inventory report as of December 1 is another good indicator of the number of pullets available for flock replacements through May of the following year. On December 1, 1974, there were 46.6 million pullets 3 months old or older not yet laying. This was 6 million or 11 percent fewer than a year earlier. In addition, there were 46.1 million pullets

Pullet chicks placed for laying flocks, 1967-71 average and 1970-74*

Month	1967-71 average	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*
January ...	22.6	26.3	22.9	22.1	21.7	20.3
February ..	24.4	26.7	24.1	23.1	22.9	21.5
March	33.0	35.9	31.9	26.7	29.1	25.8
April	36.7	38.7	35.5	29.8	30.0	29.7
May	34.6	35.9	33.3	28.8	30.6	28.6
June	27.5	28.9	27.7	24.1	24.9	24.5
July	22.7	25.6	23.5	22.0	23.1	21.0
August	20.8	17.7	22.0	21.3	23.8	19.5
September .	21.5	23.0	19.7	20.5	24.1	18.0
October ...	21.7	23.9	19.4	21.4	25.9	19.9
November .	19.6	21.1	19.0	18.6	22.5	18.5
December ..	19.7	20.7	18.6	18.4	20.0	18.0
Total	304.8	324.3	297.7	276.8	298.6	265.2

*One-half of egg-type chick hatched plus pullet chicks placed domestically for broiler hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders.

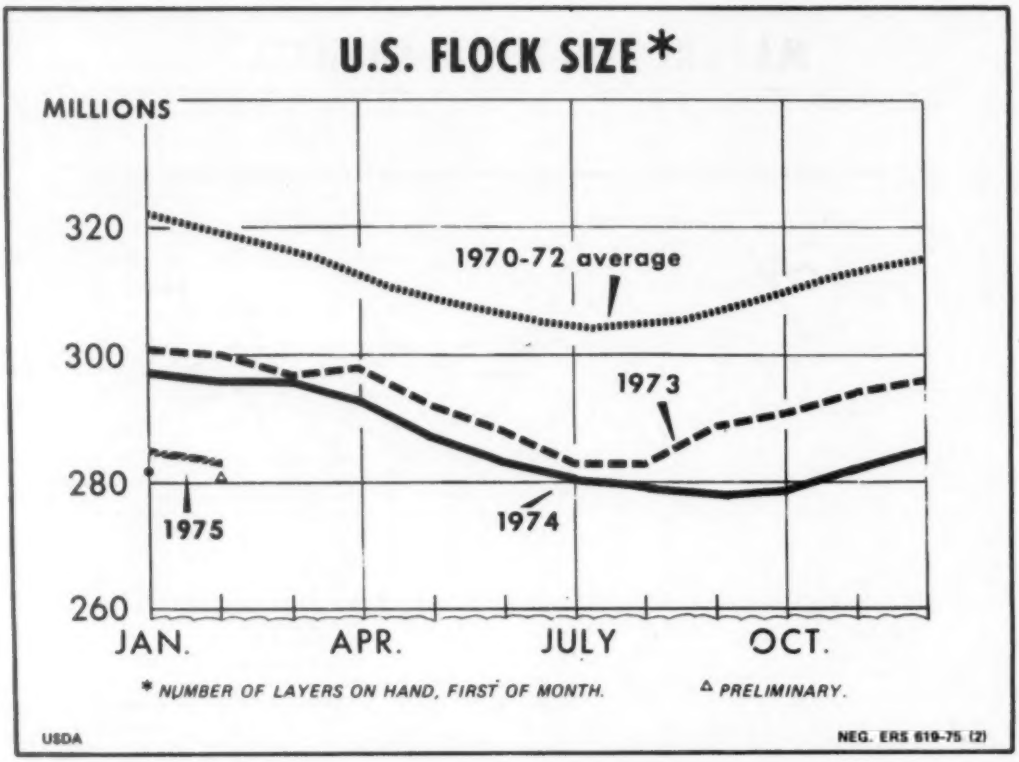
Table 2—Egg-type chick hatchery operations, United States and 5 States reporting weekly, 1973-75

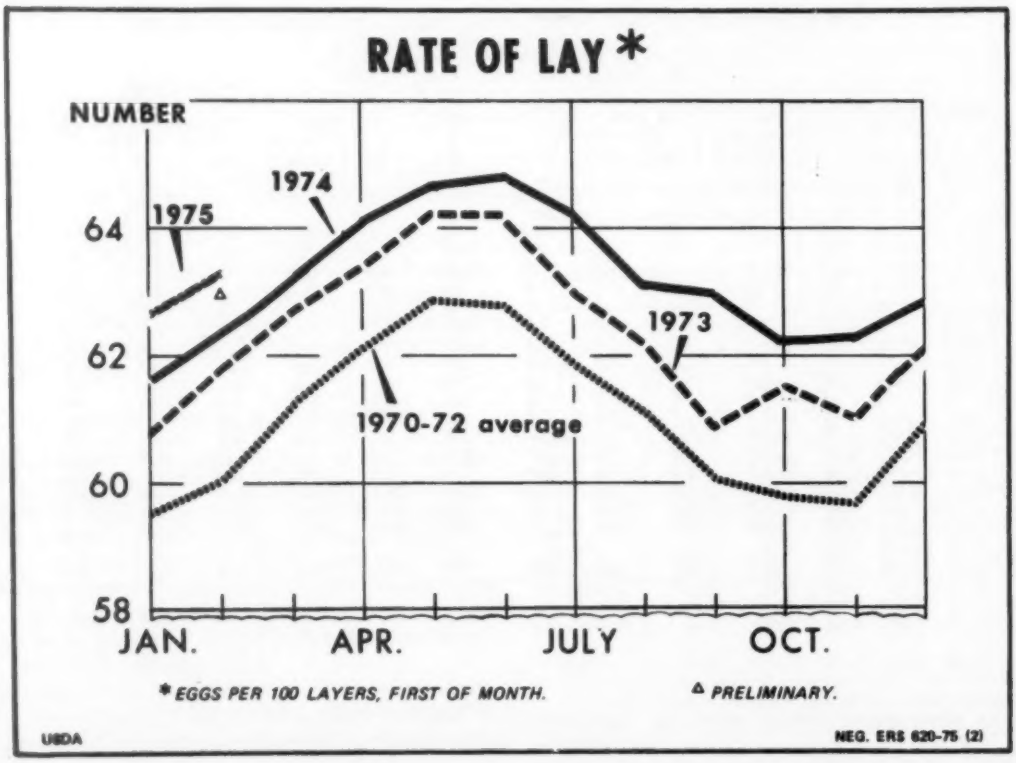
Month	United States				5 States[1]					
	Hatch		Change from year earlier		Hatch			Egg settings advanced 3 weeks		
	1973-74	1974-75	Hatch	Eggs in incubators first of month	1973-74	1974-75	Change from year earlier	Period[2]	1973-74	1974-75	Change from year earlier
	Thou.	*Thou.*	*Pct.*	*Pct.*	*Thou.*	*Thou.*	*Pct.*		*Thou.*	*Thou.*	*Pct.*
July	41,159	37,393	-9	-11	12,013	9,117	-24	June 29-Aug. 3	17,466	13,528	-23
August	42,476	34,503	-19	-10	11,758	8,488	-28	Aug. 4-Aug. 31	14,141	9,383	-34
September	42,858	31,626	-26	-28	12,623	7,703	-39	Sept. 1-Sept. 28	15,769	9,105	-42
October	45,974	35,539	-23	-27	13,021	9,343	-28	Sept. 29-Nov. 2	18,200	11,975	-34
November	40,335	32,681	-19	-13	10,491	7,504	-28	Nov. 3-Nov. 30	12,077	8,659	-28
December	35,265	31,451	-11	-11	9,533	7,992	-16	Dec. 1-Dec. 28	10,236	8,611	-16
January	35,547	34,973	-2	-2	9,201	8,788	-4	Dec. 29-Feb. 1	13,363	11,650	-13
February	38,018			-7				Feb. 2-Mar. 1	11,515	11,725	-2
March	45,713							Mar. 2-Mar. 29			
April	53,745							Mar. 30-May 3			
May	51,751							May 4-May 31			
June	43,969							June 1-June 28			

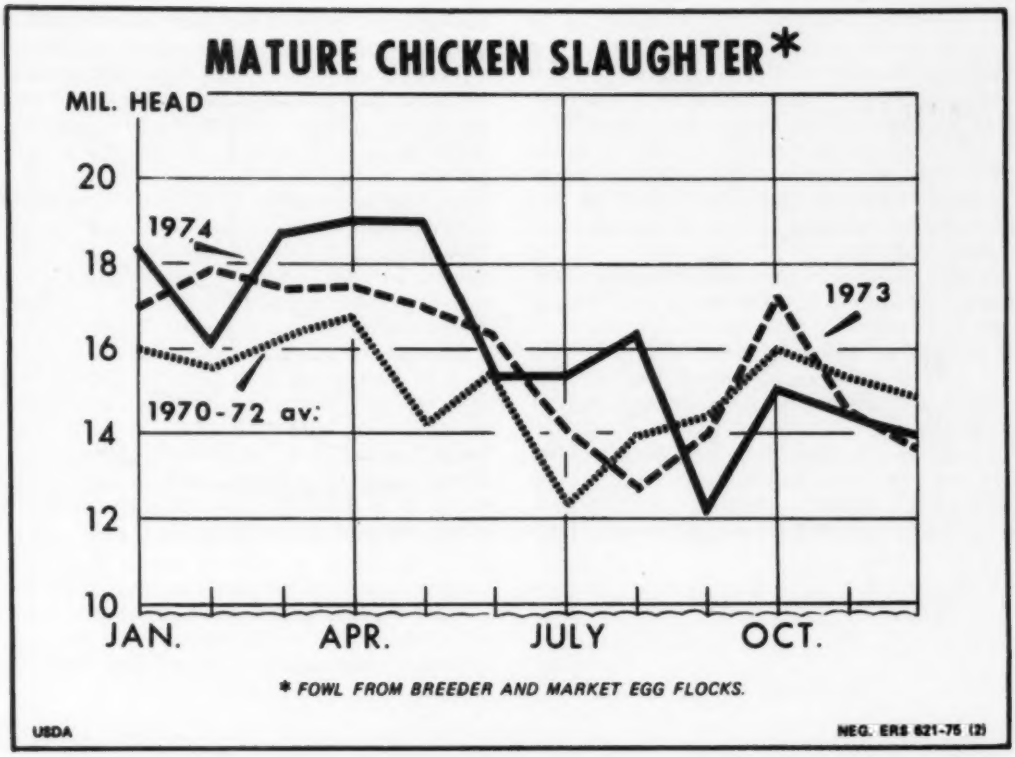
[1] The five States are Georgia, Mississippi, Oregon, Washington and California. [2] Weeks of 1975 and corresponding weeks of 1974.

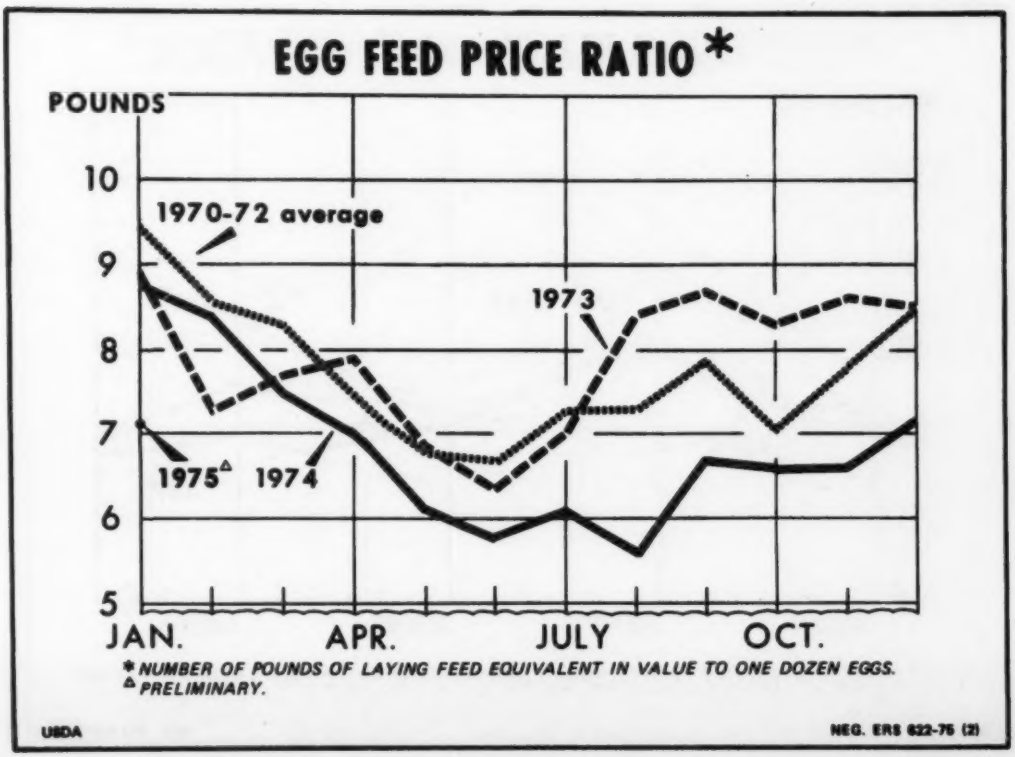
Table 3—Forced molt layers as a percent of hens and pullets of laying age, first of month, selected States, 1973-75

State	Being molted						Molt completed					
	December		January		February		December		January		February	
	1973	1974	1974	1975	1974	1975	1973	1974	1974	1975	1974	1975
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
New York	1.5	1.5	1.0	.5	1.0	1.5	7.5	6.0	8.0	4.5	7.5	9.0
Pennsylvania	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.5	2.0	5.0	5.0	5.5	4.5	5.5	5.0
Ohio	.5	.5	1.0	2.0	.5	.5	3.0	4.0	3.0	4.5	2.5	6.0
Indiana	1.5	1.0	.5	.5	.5	3.0	2.5	3.5	1.0	3.5	1.5	6.0
Iowa	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	1.5	.5	1.5	.5	1.0	1.0
North Carolina	1.5	1.0	2.5	1.5	3.0	8.0	6.5	9.0	7.0	9.5	7.0	1.0
South Carolina	1.5	.5	1.5	.5	1.0	2.5	9.0	6.0	6.0	7.5	7.0	6.0
Georgia	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.0	4.0	8.0	8.0	12.5	11.0	12.5	8.0	13.5
Florida	3.0	1.5	1.0	1.5	.5	2.5	11.5	5.5	10.0	6.5	7.0	8.5
Tennessee	.5	1.5	.5	2.5	.5	2.5	8.0	4.0	4.0	7.5	5.0	5.0
Alabama	.5	2.0	.5	2.0	.5	1.5	8.0	8.5	6.0	8.5	7.5	9.0
Mississippi	.5	1.5	.5	.5	1.0	.5	2.5	3.0	2.5	4.5	3.5	4.5
Arkansas	.5	1.0	1.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.5	6.0	3.0	7.0	2.5	5.5
Texas	.5	4.5	1.5	2.0	2.0	1.5	3.0	5.5	3.5	4.0	5.0	5.0
Washington	4.5	4.0	11.8	7.5	12.0	14.0	28.5	27.5	23.0	23.0	22.0	25.0
Oregon	3.0	1.5	3.0	10.5	9.0	5.5	28.0	24.0	27.5	18.0	22.0	25.0
California	7.0	11.0	7.0	8.0	7.0	10.0	27.5	32.0	22.0	30.0	22.0	31.0
17 States	2.4	3.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	4.8	10.2	12.1	9.2	11.7	8.8	12.3


U.S. FLOCK SIZE*
MILLIONS
320
300
280
260
1970-72 average
1973
1974
1975
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* NUMBER OF LAYERS ON HAND, FIRST OF MONTH.
△ PRELIMINARY.
USDA
NEG. ERS 619-75 (2)


RATE OF LAY*
NUMBER
64
62
60
58
1974
1975
1973
1970-72 average
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* EGGS PER 100 LAYERS, FIRST OF MONTH.
△ PRELIMINARY.
USDA
NEG. ERS 620-75 (2)


MATURE CHICKEN SLAUGHTER*
MIL. HEAD
20
18
16
14
12
10
1974
1973
1970-72 av.
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* FOWL FROM BREEDER AND MARKET EGG FLOCKS.
USDA
NEG. ERS 621-75 (2)


EGG FEED PRICE RATIO*
POUNDS
10
9
8
7
6
5
1970-72 average
1973
1975△
1974
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* NUMBER OF POUNDS OF LAYING FEED EQUIVALENT IN VALUE TO ONE DOZEN EGGS.
△ PRELIMINARY.
USDA
NEG. ERS 622-75 (2)

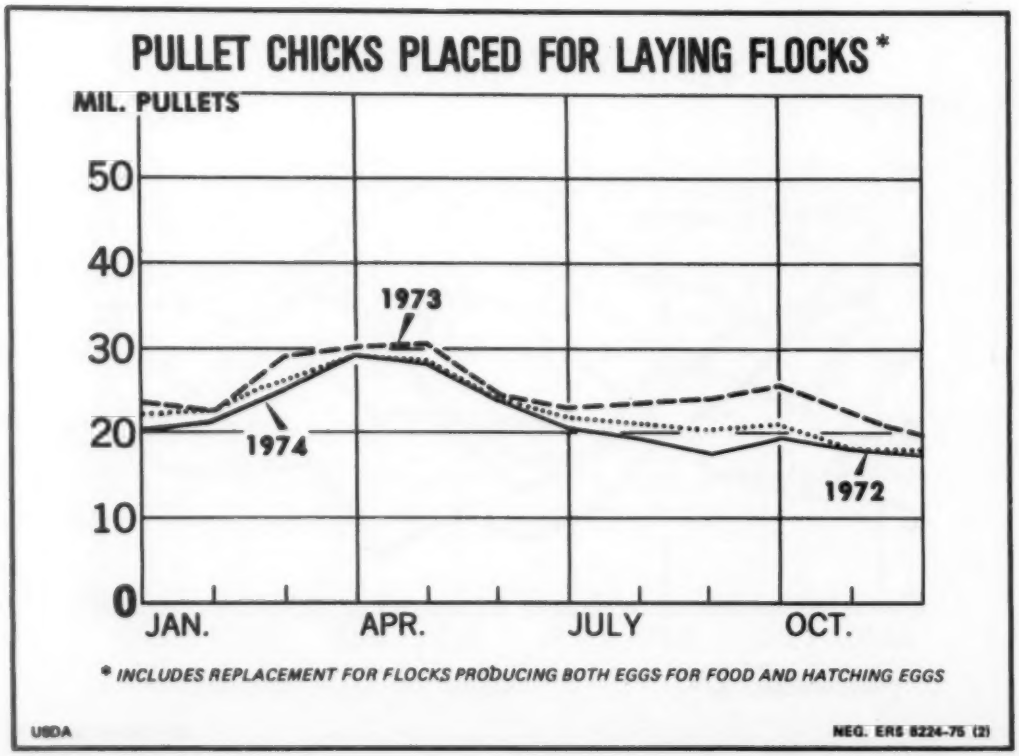
under 3 months of age, down 11.2 million or 10 percent from December 1, 1973 (table 12).

Thus, layer numbers will be substantially below year-earlier levels in the first half of 1975. Just how far layer numbers and production drop below 1974 levels will be tied closely to the number of layers culled from the laying flocks and the number of layers force molted. These in turn will depend on the relationship between egg prices and production costs (principally feed costs).

In the past few months producers have responsed to declining feed prices by reducing their cullings of old hens and increasing the number of layers force molted. During September-December 1974, there were about 6 million fewer mature hens inspected for slaughter in federally inspected plants than the 59.6 million in the same months of 1973. Also, weekly reports indicate the slaughter of mature hens in January was below year-earlier levels.

On February 1, almost 5 percent of the hens and pullets of laying age (17 States) were being forced molted and 12 percent had their molt completed. This compares with 3 and about 9 percent on February 1, 1974 (table 3). The level of force molting becomes even more crucial when one looks at the two largest egg producing States, California and Georgia. On February 1, there were 31 percent of the hens and pullets of laying age in California with molt completed and another 10 percent being molted. In Georgia there were 13.5 percent with molt completed. California and Georgia accounted for about 22 percent of total U.S. egg production in 1974. Thus, any significant drop in force molting in these two States could cause a substantial drop in production.

A continued increase in force moltings in the first half of 1975 would help slow the decline in layer numbers but probably would result in a slackening in the rate of lay. On the other hand, culling of old hens in the first half of 1975 at year-earlier levels or greater would result in a drastic drop in layer numbers. However, in this event there probably would be little, if any, slowing in the rate of lay.



Prices Weaken

Egg prices were high during early 1974 but supplies began to build up and prices fell sharply following Easter. They then remained fairly stable through the spring before strengthening in the summer. Although production dropped to 3 percent below 1973 levels, prices did not strengthen in the fall as much as expected earlier. The high prices for ingredients used in baking (especially sugar and cooking oils) weakened the usual seasonal increase in demand in the fall and carried over into the winter.

The wholesale price for Grade A large eggs in New York averaged 58.2 cents a dozen in 1974, down about 1½ cents from 1973 but 23 cents above 1972. Prices received by U.S. producers for all eggs (including eggs sold directly at retail and hatching eggs) averaged 52.8 cents per dozen in 1974, down 1.3 cents from a year earlier but about 21 cents above 1972. Iowa producers averaged 48.4 cents a dozen for their eggs in 1974, compared to 49.6 in 1973.

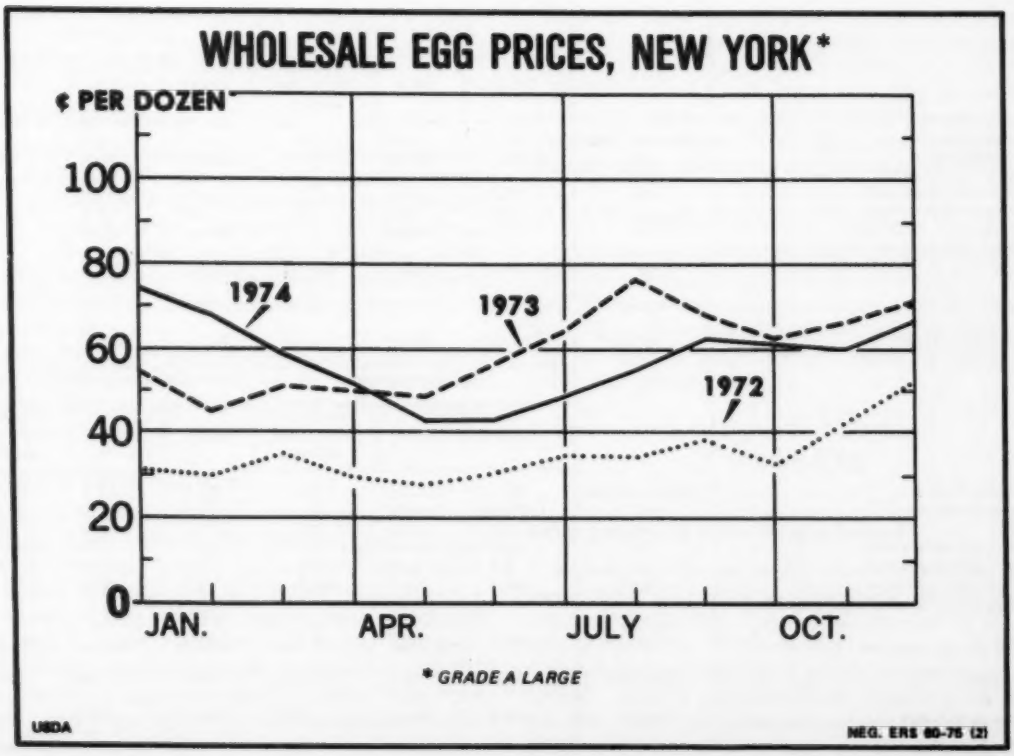
The New York wholesale price for Grade A large eggs dropped about 9 cents a dozen in early 1975—from 68 cents on December 30, 1974, to 59 cents on January 3, 1975. Prices strengthened a little in mid-January and averaged 62 cents a dozen for the month. This was 5 cents a dozen below a month earlier and down 12 cents from January 1974. The first week in February saw large egg prices drop an additional 6-7 cents per dozen to 56 cents on February 7.

Egg prices probably will strengthen in March as we approach Easter (March 30) and production continues to lag. Following Easter, prices may decline seasonally but they are not expected to show as much decline from the first quarter as in 1974, reflecting the sizable reduction in egg production this spring.

Shell egg prices

Calendar quarters	Received by producers		New York wholesale[1]			
			Large		Medium	
	1973	1974	1973	1974	1973	1974
	Cents per doz.	*Cents per doz.*	*Cents per doz.*	*Cents per doz.*	*Cents per doz.*	*Cents per doz.*
I	46.6	62.4	50.1	67.5	47.1	63.4
II	47.6	43.9	51.9	45.9	47.7	35.9
III	61.5	48.2	69.7	56.0	63.3	49.2
IV	60.8	56.7	67.3	63.4	64.4	59.9
Annual	54.1	52.8	59.8	58.2	55.6	52.1

[1] Grade A white.



Hatching Use Down

The adjustments made by broiler and egg producers in 1974 in response to high production costs and poor profitability caused the use of eggs for hatching purposes in 1974 to drop well below 1973. Eggs used for hatching purposes in 1974 are estimated to have totaled around 12.3 million cases, nearly 7 percent of total egg production but 6½ percent below a year earlier (table 4). This reflects a reduction of 11 percent in the hatch of egg-type chicks and 4½ percent for broiler-type chicks.

Hatchings of egg-type chicks were below 1973 levels the entire year. Broiler-type chick hatchings were up in early 1974 but these increases were more than offset by the sharp declines in the second half of 1974.

Hatchings use will probably continue below year-earlier levels through mid-1975 as broiler and egg producers continue to adjust to high prices and tight supplies of feed.

Breaking Activity Up

Cold storage stocks of egg products at the beginning of 1974 were at their lowest levels since 1970. So, breakers were in the market heavily during much of 1974, especially after shell egg prices dropped sharply following Easter. They reduced their breaking activity in the last few months of 1974 but there were only two 4-week periods during the year that breakings fell below the comparable weeks in 1973. Although breakers normally reduce their activity in the fall because of seasonally high shell egg prices, part of the decline last fall could be attributed to reduced demand for egg products. High prices for sugar and other ingredients used in baking were largely responsible for the reduced demand for egg products.

A total of 21 million cases of shell eggs were broken under Federal inspection during January 6, 1974-January 4, 1975, approximately 11 percent of total egg production. This was an increase of 2.7 million cases from the comparable period a year earlier. During the period, 754 million pounds of egg products were produced, almost 80 million pounds above a year earlier. Frozen egg production totaled 358 million pounds, up 5 percent. Production of dried eggs increased 12 percent to 72 million pounds. Production of liquid egg products for immediate consumption and for processing made up the remainder and was 23 percent above a year earlier.

Breaking activity will probably increase in coming months. Breakers normally increase their activity in the spring, when shell egg prices are usually seasonally low.

Table 4—Egg supplies available to civilians for food, by quarters, 1973-74

Item	Unit	January-March			April-June		
		1973	1974	Change from year earlier	1973	1974	Change from year earlier
Beginning stocks	Million dozen	53.0	33.8	-19.2	40.0	31.7	-8.3
Farm production	do.	1,392.4	1,392.0	-4.0	1,406.5	1,396.6	-9.9
Imports	do.	4.6	3.8	-.8	3.8	1.5	-2.3
Exports and shipments	do.	11.1	12.2	1.1	11.5	21.2	9.7
Military procurements	do.	8.4	13.7	5.3	9.8	14.3	4.5
Eggs used for hatching	do.	101.9	101.6	-.3	103.4	99.7	-3.7
Supplies available to civilians for food Total	do.	1,328.6	1,302.1	-26.5	1,325.6	1,294.6	-31.0
Per capita	Number	76.8	74.7	-2.1	76.5	74.2	-2.3
Civilian population	Million	207.5	209.1	1.6	207.9	209.5	1.6

Item	Unit	July-September			October-December		
		1973	1974	Change from year earlier	1973	1974	Change from year earlier
Beginning stocks	Million dozen	36.9	44.6	7.7	42.5	52.3	-9.8
Farm production	do.	1,356.8	1,349.1	-7.7	1,391.8	1,351.2	-40.6
Imports	do.	3.6	5.9	2.3	1.9	2.3	.4
Exports and shipments	do.	12.6	15.6	3.0	12.8	12.6	-.2
Military procurements	do.	8.8	13.1	4.3	8.9	13.3	4.4
Eggs used for hatching	do.	94.7	81.8	-12.9	95.9	86.8	-9.1
Supplies available to civilians for food: Total	do.	1,281.2	1,289.1	7.9	1,318.6	1,293.1	-25.5
Per capita	Number	73.8	73.7	-.1	75.8	73.8	-2.0
Civilian population	Million	208.3	209.9	1.6	208.7	210.3	1.6

Table 5—Cold storage holdings of high protein foods, February 1, 1974 with comparisons

Item	Unit	January 1		February 1	
		1974	1975	1974	1975
		Thousands	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Thousands*
Total eggs[1]	case	1,128	1,417	978	1,327
Shell	do.	34	36	23	31
Frozen	Pound	1,094	1,381	955	1,296
Total poultry	do.	430,608	455,834	423,939	439,463
Total chicken	do.	146,818	175,023	147,541	167,240
Broilers, fryers and roasters	do.	33,436	37,311	32,481	31,761
Hens	do.	47,233	53,989	43,915	55,771
Other frozen chicken	do.	66,149	83,723	71,145	79,708
Total turkey	do.	280,957	274,647	274,018	266,725
Whole	do.	221,224	209,729	215,162	203,493
Other	do.	59,733	64,918	58,856	63,232
Ducks	do.	2,833	6,164	2,380	5,498
All red meats[2]	do.	829,693	802,867	868,899	812,065
Beef	do.	447,792	402,193	470,547	416,068
Frozen pork	do.	271,631	292,934	284,500	281,746
Pork in cooler	do.	14,479	13,058	15,607	12,441
Total cheese	do.	359,808	494,078	366,750	482,200

[1] Frozen eggs converted on the basis of 39.5 pounds to the case. [2] Includes other meat and meat products.

On February 1, cold storage holdings of shell eggs and egg products totaled 1.3 million cases (shell equivalent). This was 90,000 cases below a month earlier but 349,000 cases above February 1, 1974. Shell egg stocks at 31,000 cases were 35 percent above a year earlier. Stocks of frozen eggs were up 36 percent to 51.2 million pounds (table 5).

Imports Off Slightly

Imports of shell eggs and egg products in calendar 1974 totaled 450,000 cases (shell equivalent), down about 12,800 from 1973. This was less than ½ percent of U.S. egg production. Imports in July-December were 47 percent above a year earlier. However, these gains were not enough to offset the drop in imports during the first half of 1974, especially during March-June (table 4).

Almost all of the imports were shell eggs from Canada. Canada accounted for 98 percent of the chicken shell egg imports, compared with 80 percent in 1973.

Exports and Shipments Gain

Increased exports of egg products were a main part of the egg export picture of 1974. Exports of shell eggs and egg products totaled 1.1 million cases (shell equivalent) in 1974; almost 318,000 cases above a year earlier (table 4). Shell egg exports at 653,000 cases were 32 percent above a year earlier. However, hatching egg exports dropped 3 percent to 389,500 cases. Hatching eggs accounted for about 60 percent of total shell egg exports in 1974, compared with about 81 percent in 1973.

Exports of egg products totaled around 456,000 cases (shell equivalent) in 1974, 54 percent above a year earlier. This gain was due to a 75 percent increase in exports of dried eggs to 4.4 million pounds. However, dried egg exports during January-June were over four times as large as in the same months of 1973.

Shipments of shell eggs and egg products to American territories totaled 944,300 cases during January-November 1974. This was a little over 134,400 cases above the same months of 1973.

USDA Completes Egg Mix Program

On February 21, USDA announced purchases of 396,000 pounds of egg mix at a commodity cost of $417,000. This would be equivalent of 20,000 cases of shell eggs. The mix will be used for distribution for use in USDA's supplemental feeding program and other eligible outlets.

BROILERS

Little Change in 1974 Broiler Output

A sharp decline in broiler meat output during the last quarter of 1974 about offset the moderate gains of January-September. Total U.S. production in 1974 was near 1973. While broiler output in federally inspected plants during all of 1974 totaled a record 7.9 billion pounds (ready-to-cook weight), nearly 2 percent above 1973, a larger percentage of the broilers produced during the year moved through these

Table 6—Broilers: Eggs set and broiler chicks placed weekly in 21 commercial broiler producing States, 1972-75

Weekly ending	Eggs set				Percent of previous year				Chicks placed				Percent of previous year			
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1972	1973	1974	1975	1972	1973	1974	1975	1972	1973	1974	1975
	Thousand	*Thousand*	*Thousand*	*Thousand*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Thousand*	*Thousand*	*Thousand*	*Thousand*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
January 4	73,842	71,220	73,121	65,316	104	96	103	89	57,828	56,196	59,419	55,263	102	97	106	93
11	74,780	70,560	74,086	63,811	104	94	105	86	58,962	56,059	59,360	54,877	106	95	106	92
18	76,611	71,404	72,703	66,252	110	93	102	91	58,817	56,375	59,690	55,184	106	96	106	92
25	77,561	71,326	71,030	67,876	110	92	100	96	59,412	57,586	59,832	54,035	103	97	104	90
February 1	77,861	70,863	74,790	69,062	109	91	106	92	60,110	57,579	60,277	53,120	110	96	105	88
8	78,602	73,362	75,766	69,860	109	93	103	92	61,447	57,599	59,578	55,101	110	94	104	92
15	78,457	74,865	77,101	70,891	108	95	103	92	62,309	57,266	58,583	57,082	109	92	102	97
22	78,963	76,291	77,401		108	96	101		63,027	58,822	61,095		109	90	109	
March 1	79,430	76,503	77,700		108	96	102		63,350	59,860	62,279		108	94	104	
8	79,494	76,581	76,552		108	96	100		63,430	60,731	63,465		108	96	104	
15	79,483	76,579	76,436		105	96	100		63,136	61,874	63,748		106	98	103	
22	80,223	76,320	77,332		105	95	99		64,212	61,883	63,768		106	96	103	
29	80,804	76,923	76,102		104	95	99		64,268	62,570	63,068		106	97	101	
April 5	81,008	76,611	76,937		105	97	98		64,084	62,161	62,300		104	97	100	
12	80,053	76,012	77,512		104	97	99		64,636	63,462	62,831		104	98	99	
19	79,743	77,028	76,908		105	97	100		64,921	64,167	63,454		106	99	99	
26	80,312	76,168	76,834		105	97	98		65,814	63,795	63,197		107	97	99	
May 3	78,782	76,340	77,382		104	98	99		64,862	63,145	63,228		107	97	100	
10	78,149	77,924	75,492		103	98	97		64,101	62,164	62,459		105	97	100	
17	78,730	76,301	75,721		104	98	97		64,887	62,856	62,796		105	97	100	
24	79,048	77,867	76,203		101	99	96		64,619	63,503	63,347		105	98	100	
31	79,064	77,375	76,463		102	98	98		63,967	62,925	61,773		104	98	98	
June 7	79,324	76,023	74,384		103	96	96		63,508	63,162	62,097		103	99	99	
14	70,646	69,533	67,026		92	98	96		63,444	62,230	62,002		103	98	100	
21	73,542	67,472	67,446		103	92	100		62,740	61,497	60,391		103	98	98	
28	75,826	69,606	68,067		104	92	98		63,231	60,898	59,635		105	96	98	
July 5	75,630	70,569	66,916		101	93	95		55,803	54,683	53,809		101	98	98	
12	76,382	71,566	68,352		102	95	93		57,637	53,897	53,705		102	93	100	
19	74,755	72,713	65,596		101	97	90		59,803	55,119	53,867		102	92	97	
26	73,930	72,546	65,168		100	98	90		59,707	56,553	53,734		103	95	95	
August 2	72,328	72,048	64,273		99	100	89		60,512	57,192	53,485		104	95	94	
9	72,534	71,712	63,001		99	99	88		59,730	58,183	53,049		104	97	91	
16	71,821	71,121	62,628		99	99	88		58,178	58,387	52,656		102	100	89	
23	70,353	71,237	62,983		99	101	88		57,226	57,726	51,659		99	101	89	
30	62,093	66,526	60,838		89	107	91		57,543	57,381	51,424		101	100	90	
September 6	64,045	64,284	56,282		103	100	88		57,218	56,897	51,421		102	99	90	
13	71,612	70,213	54,088		113	98	77		55,281	56,523	51,305		102	102	91	
20	70,696	70,966	61,868		101	100	87		48,743	53,018	49,139		101	109	93	
27	67,426	69,552	60,231		100	103	87		50,230	50,531	46,651		101	101	90	
October 4	69,684	61,920	55,461		96	89	90		57,055	56,041	43,442		105	98	78	
11	64,473	60,624	52,087		107	94	86		56,335	56,547	50,071		105	100	89	
18	68,985	68,328	58,712		105	99	86		53,577	55,795	49,675		109	104	89	
25	71,396	72,325	63,084		102	101	87		47,039	48,973	45,690		100	104	93	
November 1	70,294	71,132	63,714		99	101	90		50,818	48,744	42,183		92	96	87	
8	72,250	72,778	63,807		103	101	88		55,000	55,006	48,029		96	100	87	
15	71,911	72,620	66,102		100	101	91		57,300	56,156	52,275		101	101	90	
22	71,200	72,020	66,277		98	101	92		56,564	57,102	52,773		99	101	92	
29	71,022	72,726	66,405		98	102	91		57,885	59,068	53,166		101	102	90	
December 6	68,722	67,983	65,376		93	101	97		57,668	58,749	54,881		101	102	93	
13	69,778	73,124	66,507		97	105	91		57,090	57,985	54,626		99	101	94	
20	69,711	73,285	66,249		96	105	90		57,142	58,323	54,478		102	102	93	
27	69,617	72,722	66,280		94	104	91		52,732	54,635	53,831		91	103	99	
52 weeks total	3,862,805	3,777,306	3,577,791		102	98	95		3,089,133	3,029,856	2,934,167		98	98	97	

plants. Total production figures will be released in April.

The number of broilers slaughtered in federally inspected plants during 1974 was down slightly. However, the reduction in numbers was more than offset by a 2 percent heavier weights and a reduction in condemnations. There were 2,900 million broilers slaughtered at an average liveweight of 3.79 pounds, compared with 2,908 million and 3.73 pounds in 1973. Most condemnations are post-mortem and in 1974 post-mortem condemnations totaled 219 million pounds (New York dressed weight), compared with 254 million pounds in 1973. For 1974 post-mortem condemnations were 1.96 percent of the quantity inspected, down from 2.54 percent in 1973.

Broilers slaughtered in Federally inspected plants

Calendar quarters	Number inspected		Average live weight		Certified as wholesome (ready-to-cook weight)	
	1973	1974	1973	1974	1973	1974
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Lb.*	*Lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*
I	699.8	723.9	3.70	3.77	1,849.7	1,956.9
II	746.8	770.0	3.71	3.80	1,986.5	2,104.7
III	745.7	755.7	3.71	3.77	1,986.6	2,054.9
IV	715.2	650.8	3.83	3.83	1,963.3	1,801.0
Annual .	2,907.6	2,900.4	3.73	3.79	7,786.1	7,916.8

First Half 1975 Output Slumps

Weekly reports indicate that broiler slaughter during January was down about 10 percent from a year earlier. Both the number and the average liveweight were down. Based on broiler chick placements, marketings during February gained relative to 1974 but were still down by around 5 percent (table 6). However, during March they will again drop to around 8 percent below a year earlier. Thus, production during January-March is expected to average around 8 percent below a year earlier but about the same as the previous quarter.

Continued high production costs and uncertainties about feed prices likely will hold production in the spring to around 8 percent below April-June 1974. Weekly broiler egg sets in recent weeks, largely for April marketings, have been running 5-9 percent below a year earlier. If the outlook is favorable for large 1975 feed grain crops, leading to easing feed grain prices and relatively strong broiler prices, producers are likely to expand output gradually later in the year. Output may reach or exceed year-earlier levels in the closing months of 1975. Production patterns in 1975 likely will be the opposite of 1974 when output declined in the second half of the year with last quarter output dropping 8 percent below October-December 1973.

Sharp Decline in Hatchery Supply Flock

Any expansion in broiler output in coming months may be limited by the availability of hatchings eggs. The number of pullet chicks placed for the domestic broiler hatchery supply flock has been below year-earlier levels since February 1974. Based on the number of pullet chicks placed 7-14 months earlier, the broiler hatchery supply flock has declined each month since last December and in February was down around 5 percent. The margin will continue to widen in coming months and the flock will be down around 15 percent by mid year. However, this does not mean that available hatching eggs will be down by that amount. Broiler production was cut back during the second half of 1974 and the hatchery supply flock was not fully utilized. In addition, layers can be held in the flock longer than usual and eggs not normally incubated because of size can be utilized. Also, the number of eggs set per breeder hen has been trending upward and likely will continue upward in 1975. In the past, the size of the hatchery supply flock has seldom been a limiting factor in broiler production.

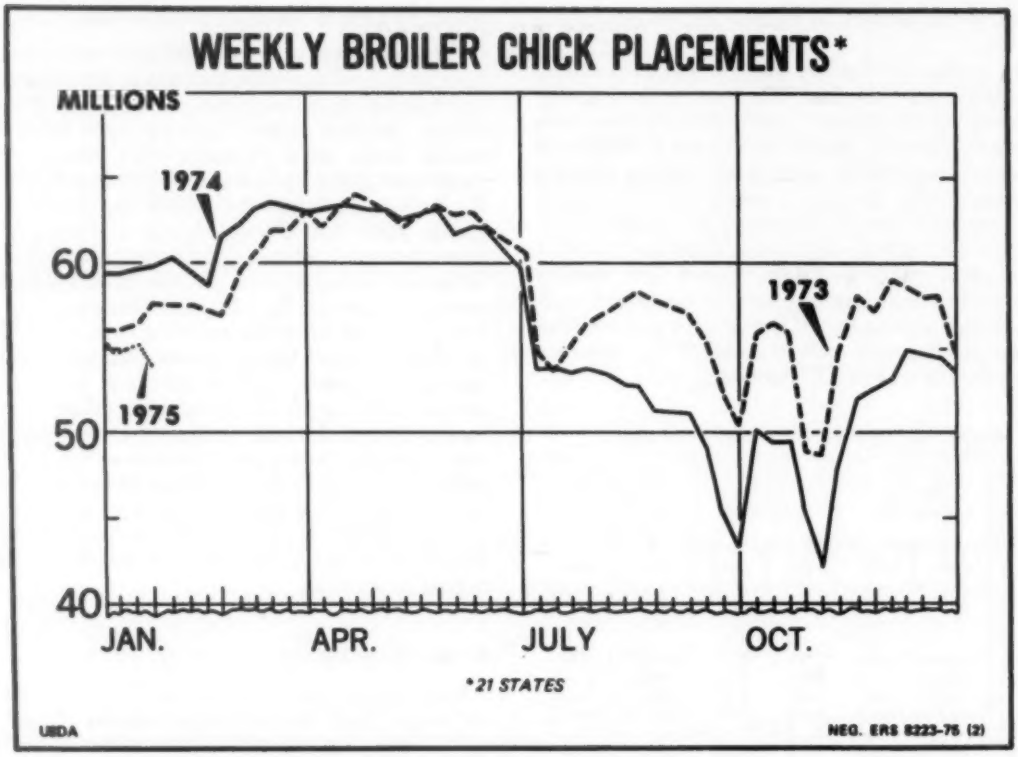
Broiler Prices Strong

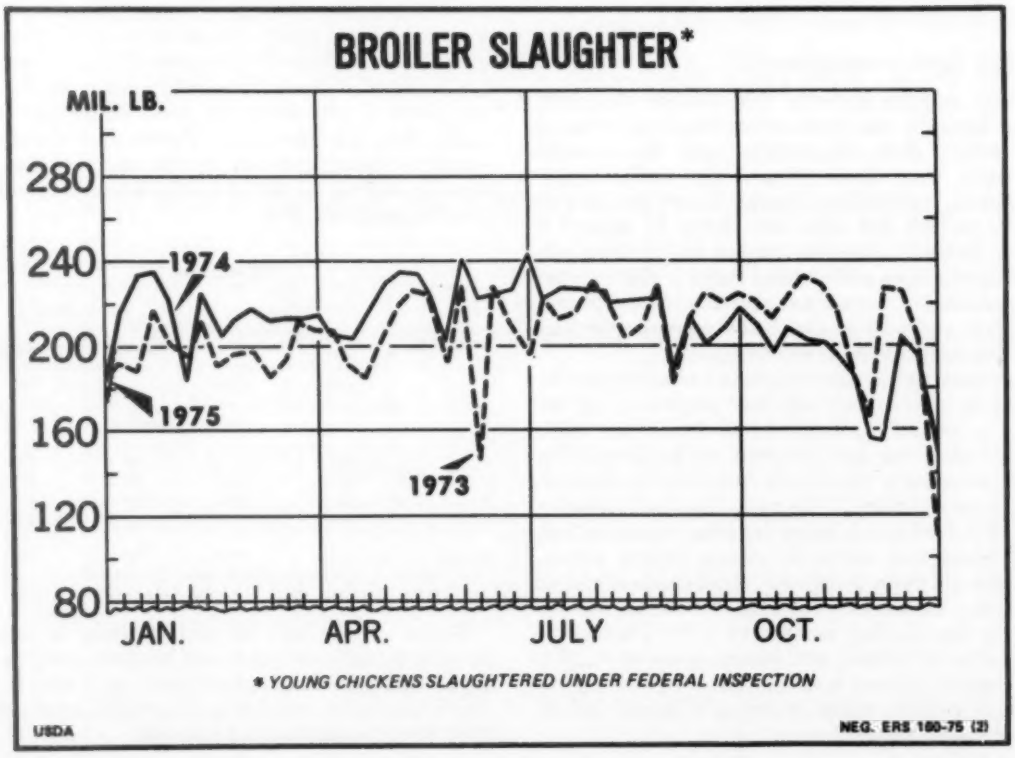
Broiler prices turned upward in the closing months of 1974 as broiler output dropped sharply. Prices had fallen below year-earlier levels in early spring and continued lower until late in the year. For all of 1974 wholesale broiler prices in 9-cities averaged 38.2 cents a pound, down nearly 6 cents from 1973. Prices in early 1975 have fluctuated in the 40-45 cent range and for January averaged nearly 42 cents a pound. This was about 1 cent above the prior month and up 2 cents from January 1974. Prices are expected to continue strong through spring and summer and average well above the 36.5 cents a pound average of April-September 1974.

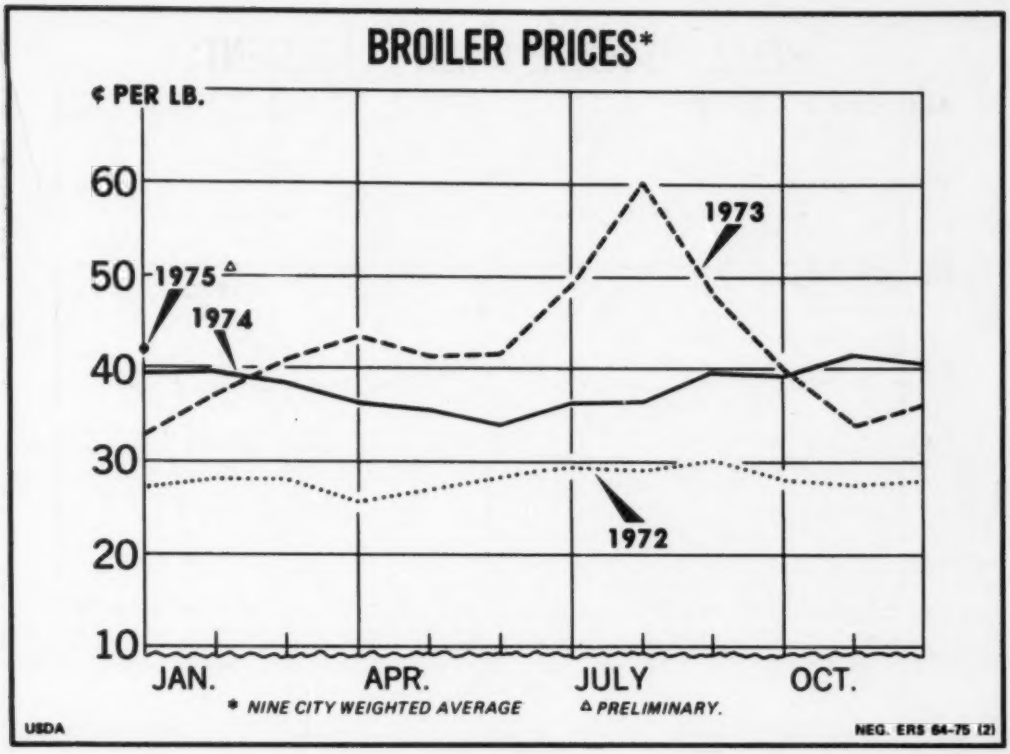
Broiler prices

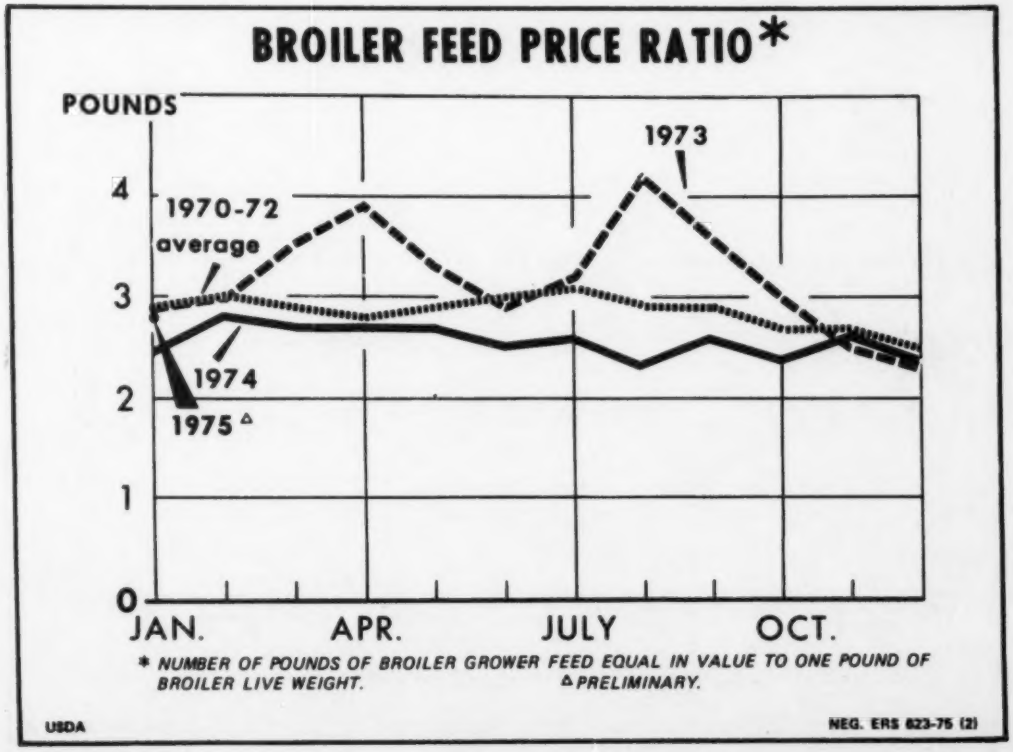
Calendar quarters	Received by producers		9-city weighted average (ready-to-cook weight)	
	1973	1974	1973	1974
	Cents per pound			
I	20.1	22.4	37.1	39.3
II	24.4	20.1	42.3	35.3
III	31.3	21.1	52.6	37.7
IV	20.8	22.8	36.9	40.7
Annual ...	24.1	21.6	42.2	38.2

Broiler prices will be strengthened in coming months by reduced supplies of broilers, turkeys, and pork. Although beef output may stay above 1974 levels, total meat supplies may be slightly lower than they were last spring and summer.


WEEKLY BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS*
MILLIONS
1974
1973
1975
60
50
40
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*21 STATES
USDA
NEG. ERS 8223-75 (2)


BROILER SLAUGHTER*
MIL. LB.
280
240
200
160
120
80
1974
1975
1973
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION
USDA
NEG. ERS 180-75 (2)


BROILER PRICES*
¢ PER LB.
60
50
40
30
20
10
1975 △
1974
1973
1972
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* NINE CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE
△ PRELIMINARY.
USDA
NEG. ERS 64-75 (2)


BROILER FEED PRICE RATIO*
POUNDS
4
3
2
1
0
1970-72
average
1973
1974
1975 △
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* NUMBER OF POUNDS OF BROILER GROWER FEED EQUAL IN VALUE TO ONE POUND OF BROILER LIVE WEIGHT.
△ PRELIMINARY.
USDA
NEG. ERS 623-75 (2)

1974 Use About Same

Based on federally inspected slaughter (total U.S. production will not be reported until early April) domestic use of broiler meat in 1974 was about equal to the 37.7 pounds per person consumed in 1973. Per capita consumption in the first 3 quarters of 1974 was about 1.1 pounds above a year earlier but this gain was offset by a sharp drop in the fourth quarter. Lower available supplies during the first half of this year will cause per capita consumption to drop at least a pound per person from 1974 levels.

USDA purchases of young chicken for the Nation's school lunch program in calendar year 1974 totaled 48 million pounds, well below the 62 million pounds purchased in 1973. The commodity costs of 1974 purchases totaled $22.8 million, $4.6 million less than in 1973.

Shipments to U.S. territories and exports of chickens and parts increased in 1974. Shipments to American territories totaled 115 million pounds, 6 percent more than in 1973. Of this amount, 92 percent was shipped to Puerto Rico. Exports of fresh and frozen young whole chickens and parts totaled 115 million pounds, compared with 94 million in 1973. Exports of chicken parts gained 21 percent and accounted for about 83 percent of the total. Whole chicken exports increased 31 percent from the same months of 1973.

TURKEYS

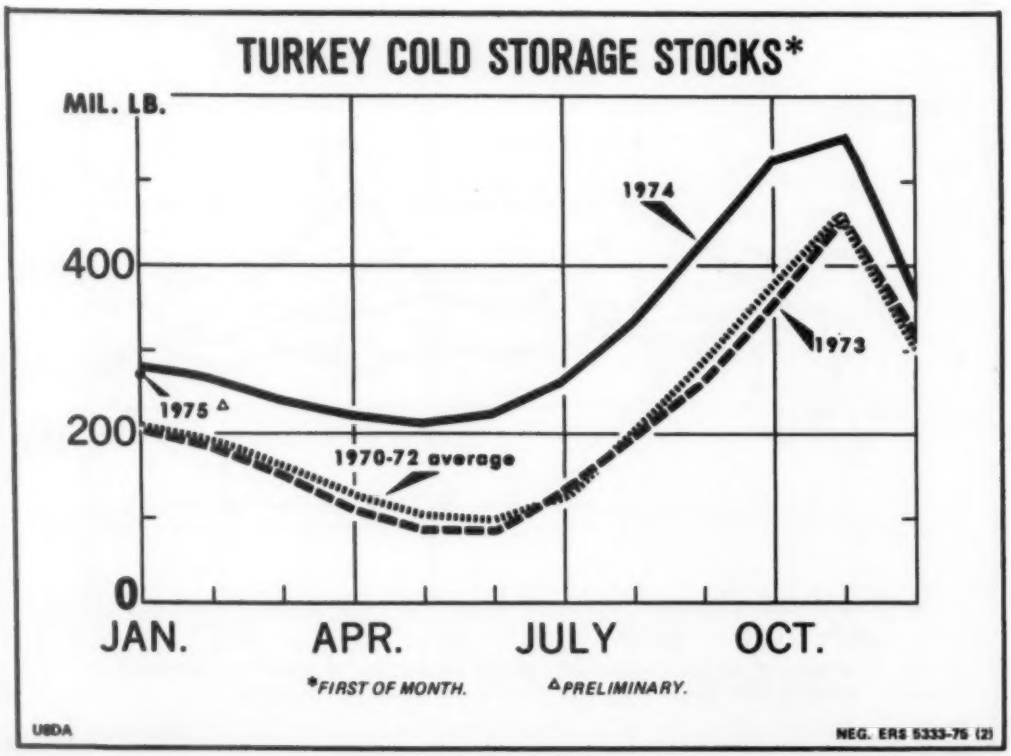
Little Change in 1974 Turkey Crop

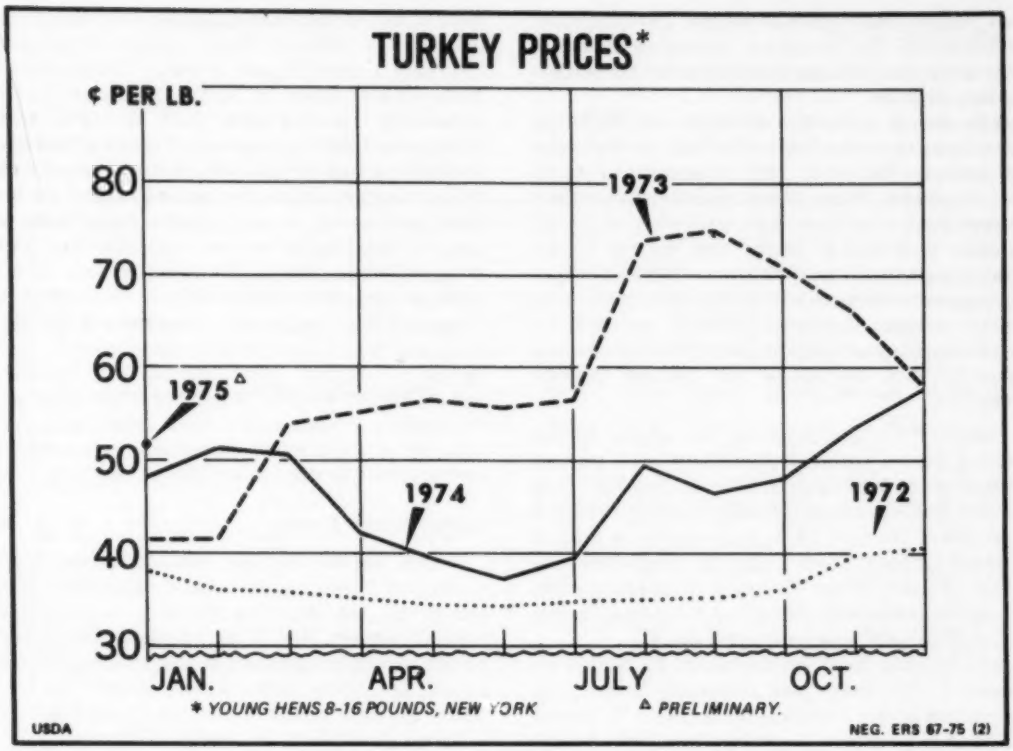
The 1974 turkey crop totaled 131.4 million birds, down less than 1 percent from the record 1973 crop. For 1974, the number of heavy breed turkeys raised increased slightly to 116.1 million while light breeds declined about 7 percent to 15.3 million. Despite the slightly smaller turkey crop, output in federally inspected slaughter plants increased.

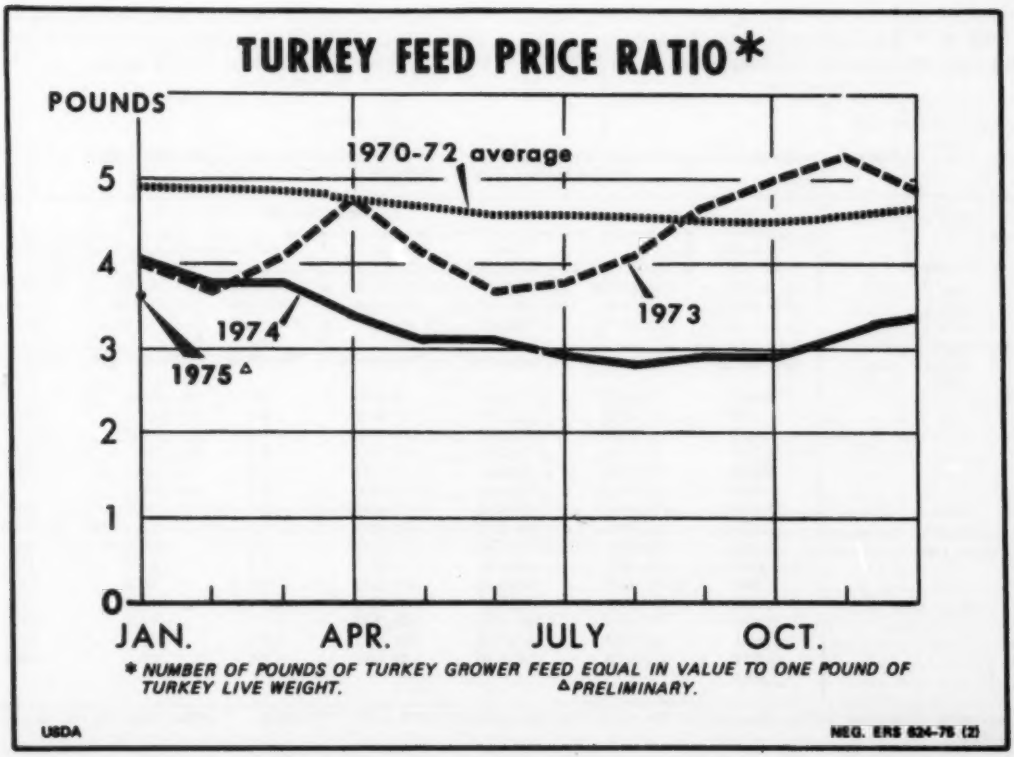
Output of turkey meat in federally inspected plants during 1974 gained nearly 3 percent to a record 1,836

Turkey slaughtered in Federally inspected plants

Calendar quarters	Number inspected		Average live weight		Certified as wholesome (ready-to-cook weight)	
	1973	1974	1973	1974	1973	1974
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Lb.*	*Lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*
I	11.7	15.1	17.2	18.3	156.6	216.1
II	21.6	26.6	16.6	16.8	282.9	353.1
III	44.6	47.0	17.9	18.0	631.5	670.4
IV	45.1	38.0	20.1	19.8	717.0	596.2
Annual .	123.0	126.8	18.4	18.4	1,787.9	1,835.8




TURKEY PRICES*
¢ PER LB.
80
70
60
50
40
30
1973
1975△
1974
1972
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* YOUNG HENS 8-16 POUNDS, NEW YORK
△ PRELIMINARY.
USDA
NEG. ERS 67-75 (2)


TURKEY FEED PRICE RATIO*
POUNDS
5
4
3
2
1
0
1970-72 average
1973
1974
1975△
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* NUMBER OF POUNDS OF TURKEY GROWER FEED EQUAL IN VALUE TO ONE POUND OF TURKEY LIVE WEIGHT.
△PRELIMINARY.
USDA
NEG. ERS 624-75 (2)

million pounds, ready-to-cook weight. The number of birds inspected for slaughter increased nearly 3 percent while the average liveweight at 18.4 pounds was down slightly.

Despite strong consumer demand and declining turkey prices during the first half of 1974, cold storage stocks gained relative to 1973 because of a sharp increase in output. Demand weakened in the summer and movement of turkeys into marketing channels fell below year-earlier levels and turkey stocks reached record levels on October 1. Reduced output and increased movements of turkeys into marketing channels during October-December resulted in yearend stocks being 6 million pounds below the high January 1, 1973, stocks of 281 million pounds (table 5).

In late 1974, producers in 20 major turkey producing States reported plans to raise 6 percent fewer turkeys in 1975 than in 1974. At that time they planned to produce about 105 million heavy breeds, 6 percent fewer than in 1974, and nearly 14 million light breed turkeys, down 2 percent. Producers may alter their plans to reflect changes in production costs (particularly feed costs), current and expected turkey prices, and general economic conditions.

Turkey breeder hens on farms in 26 States on December 1, 1974 were down 16 percent from a year earlier to just under 3 million birds (table 7). Heavy breed hens were down 17 percent and light breeds dropped 12 percent below December 1, 1973.

Output of turkey meat during the seasonally light first half of 1975 will be well below the previous year. Poult production during September-January was 15 percent below the same months a year earlier (tables 8 and 9). In addition, turkey eggs in incubators on February 1 were 16 percent below February 1, 1974. Thus, the number of turkey poults produced for marketing in the first half of 1975 will be substantially below a year ago. Output of turkey meat in the first half of 1975 will be down more from the preceeding year than the late 1974 and early 1975 poult production would indicate. Apparently, there were a substantial number of 1973 crop turkeys slaughtered in early 1974. Few if any 1974 crop turkeys were carried into 1975.

Second half output will increase seasonally and may match or exceed 1974 levels in the fall. In 1974, output of turkey meat during the second half accounted for around 70 percent of the year's total. Production patterns for 1975 likely will be the opposite of 1974 when output dropped below year-earlier levels in the second half of the year.

Turkey Prices Weaker

Turkey prices trended upward during the last quarter of 1974 as production declined and demand picked up for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday periods. New York wholesale prices for 8-16 pound young hen turkeys averaged about 53 cents a pound, up 8 cents from the prior quarter but 12 cents below the high prices of October-December 1973.

Prices weakened in early 1975 and in early February averaged 47 cents a pound, 8 cents below a month earlier and 3 cents below a year earlier. Turkey prices probably will strengthen in coming months as supplies remain well below 1974 levels.

Table 7—Poults hatched per breeder hen on hand January 1, September-February 1, March-August and September-August, 1960-75

Year	Turkey breeder hens on farms January 1[1]	Poults hatched					
		Total			Per breeder hen on hand January 1		
		September through February	March through August	September through August	September through February	March through August	September through August[2]
	Thousands	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Thousands*
1960	3,327	18,598	73,066	91,664	5.6	22.0	27.6
1961	4,316	27,372	91,300	118,672	6.3	21.2	27.5
1962	3,823	17,730	83,240	100,970	4.6	21.8	26.4
2963	3,777	17,175	84,539	101,714	4.5	22.4	26.9
1964	3,636	19,056	89,690	108,746	5.2	24.7	29.9
1965	3,555	18,793	95,853	114,646	5.3	27.0	32.2
1966	3,920	25,448	102,022	127,470	6.5	26.0	32.5
1967	4,148	34,422	104,973	139,395	8.3	25.3	33.6
1968	3,392	25,082	90,671	115,753	7.4	26.7	34.1
1969	3,290	25,417	89,600	115,017	7.7	27.2	35.0
1970	3,398	29,027	95,806	124,833	8.5	28.2	36.7
1971	3,389	34,845	92,809	127,654	10.3	27.4	37.7
1972	3,370	37,474	101,516	138,990	11.1	30.1	41.2
1973	3,303	41,054	101,196	142,250	12.4	30.6	43.1
1974	3,553	46,322	96,129	142,451	13.0	27.1	40.1
1975	2,970						

[1] Beginning December 1970, data are for the following year and represent a 26 State total. [2] Detail may not add exactly due to rounding.

Table 8—Turkeys: Monthly hatchings by breed type, advanced to indicate prospective month of marketing, 48 States, 1973-75

Month of marketing	Light breed advanced 4 months			Heavy breeds						All turkey: Sum of preceding columns*		
				Hens advanced 5 months			Toms advanced 6 months					
	1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975
	Million	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*
January	1.2	1.2	0.5	2.5	2.9	2.6	5.5	6.1	5.8	9.2	10.2	9.0
February	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.3	2.5	2.9	2.6	4.8	5.6	5.1
March	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.1	1.4	1.3	3.9	4.3	4.1
April	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.9	1.9	1.2	1.4	1.9	4.3	4.9	4.7
May	1.4	1.3	1.2	2.5	3.3	2.6	1.5	1.9	2.6	5.5	6.5	5.7
June	1.1	1.2		4.1	4.8	3.7	2.5	3.3	3.7	7.8	9.2	
July	1.5	1.6		6.0	6.4		4.1	4.8		11.6	12.7	
August	1.3	1.5		8.4	9.0		6.0	6.4		15.7	16.8	
September	1.1	1.4		9.7	9.6		8.4	9.0		19.2	20.0	
October	1.5	1.4		10.3	9.4		9.7	9.6		21.5	20.4	
November	1.7	1.0		9.0	7.8		10.3	9.4		20.9	18.3	
December	1.5	0.7		6.1	5.8		9.0	7.9		16.5	14.4	

*Detail may not add exactly to totals due to rounding.

Table 9—Turkey hatchery operations, United States and 6-9 States reporting weekly, 1973-75

Month	United States				Period[4]	6-9 States[1, 2, 3]					
	Hatch		Change from year earlier			Hatch			Egg settings advanced 4 weeks		
	1973-74	1974-75	Hatch	Eggs in incubators first of month		1973-74	1974-75	Change from year earlier	1973-74	1974-75	Change from year earlier
September	4,045	3,146	-22	-23	Sept. 1-Sept. 28	3,312	2,467	-26	5,766	4,155	-28
October	3,943	4,180	6	2	Sept. 29-Nov. 2	3,962	4,028	2	6,275	6,253	0
November	5,446	5,006	-8	-9	Nov. 3-Nov. 30	4,612	3,937	-15	6,855	5,737	-16
December	8,084	6,504	-20	-19	Dec. 1-Dec. 28	6,115	4,752	-22	9,139	7,018	-23
January	10,867	8,716	-20	-22	Dec. 29-Feb. 1	9,201	8,127	-18	15,150	11,937	-21
February	13,937			-17	Feb. 2-Mar. 1				16,638	13,391	-20
March	19,490				Mar. 2-Mar. 29						
April	20,767				March 30-May 3						
May	20,112				May 4-May 31						
June	17,058				June 1-June 28						
July	12,695				June 29-Aug. 2						
August	6,007				Aug. 3-Aug. 31						

[1] The six States are: California, Missouri, Ohio, Virginia, Minnesota and Wisconsin. [2] Six States plus Iowa, Texas and North Carolina, from September 2-December 1. [3] Six States plus Iowa and Texas, from December 30-March 2. [4] Weeks of 1974-75 and corresponding weeks of 1973-74.

Turkey prices

Calendar quarters	Received by producers		New York wholesale[1]			
			Young hens 8-16 pounds		Young toms 14-20 pounds	
	1973	1974	1973	1974	1973	1974
	Cents per pound					
I	25.7	33.2	45.7	50.2	44.7	47.6
II	32.4	25.1	55.8	39.8	53.3	37.4
III	39.3	25.5	68.5	45.4	66.4	40.9
IV	41.6	29.5	65.2	53.3	61.6	49.7
Annual .	34.8	28.3	58.8	47.2	56.5	43.9

[1] U.S. Grade A ready-to-cook, carlot and truckiot frozen F.O.B. or equivalent.

Larger 1974 Domestic Use

Larger supplies and lower prices during the main marketing season increased turkey consumption in 1974. Consumption was estimated to total 9 pounds per person. This was 0.3 of a pound per person above 1973 but slightly below the record 9.1 pounds consumed in 1972. With the exception of the third quarter, consumption was above a year earlier in each quarter of 1974.

Lower Exports and Military Use

Exports of whole turkeys and turkey parts in 1974 totaled nearly 40 million pounds, 10 million less than in 1973. Turkey parts accounted for 78 percent of the total, compared with 73 percent in the previous year.

Military purchases during 1974 continued the downtrend of recent years. Purchases by the military have declined each year since 1968. Purchases for 1974 totaled 29 million pounds, compared with 31 million for 1973.

USDA Purchases

USDA purchased 51.4 million pounds of whole carcass equivalent, ready-to-cook turkey for the school lunch programs in 1974 at a commodity cost of $25.1 million. This compares with 35.8 million pounds at a cost of $24.2 million in 1973.

Although purchases for direct food distribution programs were discontinued in 1974, USDA purchased the equivalent of about 4 million pounds, ready-to-cook weight, of canned boned turkey in January 1974. In 1973, USDA bought 36 million pounds, ready-to-cook equivalent, of canned boned turkey under this program.

Table 10—Prices and price spreads for large eggs, 1972-74[1]

Item	Annual average 1972	Annual average 1973	Annual average 1974	October 1973	November 1973	December 1973	October 1974	November 1974	December 1974
	Cents per dozen	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*
10-City average prices									
Farm price	29.5	52.4	51.8	59.6	54.3	61.6	56.6	52.9	56.5
Price to retailer	43.6	67.0	65.6	74.7	69.1	76.8	70.8	67.8	71.1
Retail price	53.2	78.4	78.4	87.1	82.2	89.0	84.3	81.2	84.9
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	23.7	26.0	26.6	27.5	27.9	27.4	27.7	28.3	28.4
Farm to retailer	14.1	14.6	13.8	15.1	14.8	15.2	14.2	14.9	14.6
Retail	9.6	11.4	12.8	12.4	13.1	12.2	13.5	13.4	13.8
New York Prices									
Farm Price	28.0	51.5	50.4	58.8	53.3	61.8	54.8	51.7	54.5
Price to retailer	40.6	64.8	64.6	71.8	66.7	75.8	70.8	65.8	71.7
Retail price	57.2	83.2	85.6	92.9	89.6	97.8	92.6	87.7	92.7
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	29.2	31.7	35.2	34.1	36.3	36.0	37.8	36.0	38.2
Farm to retailer	12.6	13.3	14.2	13.0	13.4	14.0	16.0	14.1	17.2
Retail	16.6	18.4	21.0	21.1	22.9	22.0	21.8	21.9	21.0
Boston prices									
Farm price	32.6	53.1	53.3	58.4	54.4	60.5	60.1	58.9	61.0
Price to retailer	46.1	65.7	66.5	70.5	67.5	73.5	73.5	72.5	75.0
Retail price	60.6	81.8	85.5	88.3	87.3	90.9	93.9	91.0	93.5
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	28.0	28.7	32.2	29.9	32.9	30.4	33.8	32.1	32.5
Farm to retailer	13.5	12.6	13.2	12.1	13.1	13.0	13.4	13.6	14.0
Retail	14.5	16.1	19.0	17.8	19.8	17.4	20.4	18.5	18.5
Chicago prices									
Farm price	24.8	49.1	48.3	56.5	51.4	60.0	53.5	50.5	54.0
Price to retailer	40.0	65.7	63.6	75.0	70.0	75.5	69.0	65.0	70.0
Retail price	51.5	77.5	80.9	88.3	80.0	89.6	85.5	84.2	87.5
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	26.7	28.4	32.6	31.8	28.6	29.6	32.0	33.7	33.5
Farm to retailer	15.2	16.6	15.3	18.5	18.6	15.5	15.5	14.5	16.0
Retail	11.5	11.8	17.3	13.3	10.0	14.1	16.5	19.2	17.5
St. Louis prices									
Farm price	29.3	52.9	52.3	59.9	54.9	63.9	58.2	53.3	59.2
Price to retailer	42.2	65.4	65.0	74.0	67.0	76.5	67.0	67.0	68.0
Retail price	51.1	75.7	77.1	83.8	77.1	88.2	82.3	80.0	83.7
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	21.8	22.8	24.8	23.9	22.2	24.3	24.1	26.7	24.5
Farm to retailer	12.9	12.5	12.7	14.1	12.1	12.6	8.8	13.7	8.8
Retail	8.9	10.3	12.1	9.8	10.1	11.7	15.3	13.0	15.7
Atlanta prices									
Farm prices	27.3	50.9	50.0	57.3	52.5	61.0	53.5	50.5	53.0
Price to retailer	41.2	64.1	63.8	73.5	66.5	75.8	69.5	66.5	67.2
Retail price	52.8	77.2	78.3	87.4	80.8	88.4	83.4	80.6	86.1
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	25.5	26.3	28.3	30.1	28.3	27.4	29.9	30.1	33.1
Farm to retailer	13.9	13.2	13.8	16.2	14.0	14.8	16.0	16.0	14.2
Retail	11.6	13.1	14.5	13.9	14.3	12.6	13.9	14.1	18.9

[1] Selected cities and 10-city average.

Table 11—Prices and price spreads for frying chickens, 1972-74[1]

Item	Annual average 1972	Annual average 1973	Annual average 1974	October 1973	November 1973	December 1973	October 1974	November 1974	December 1974
	Cents per pound	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*
10-City average prices									
Farm price	19.2	33.9	30.0	31.1	28.3	27.0	30.0	32.3	32.9
Price to retailer	[2]32.2	[2]47.0	42.3	[2]44.4	[2]42.2	[2]40.4	42.2	44.1	46.4
Retail price	42.7	60.8	57.1	60.4	56.1	55.2	57.6	59.7	61.0
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	23.5	26.9	27.1	29.3	27.8	28.2	27.6	27.4	28.1
Farm to retailer	13.1	13.1	12.3	13.3	13.9	13.4	12.2	11.8	13.5
Retail	10.4	13.8	14.8	16.0	13.9	14.8	15.4	15.6	14.6
New York prices									
Farm price	19.5	34.6	30.1	32.9	29.1	26.9	31.3	32.4	32.7
Price to retailer	30.9	45.9	41.1	43.0	40.0	39.0	43.0	43.5	47.0
Retail price	46.4	63.3	60.6	63.8	58.3	56.7	64.2	62.7	65.4
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	26.9	28.7	30.5	30.9	29.2	29.8	32.9	30.3	32.7
Farm to retailer	11.4	11.3	11.0	10.1	10.9	12.1	11.7	11.1	14.3
Retail	15.5	17.4	19.5	20.8	18.3	17.7	21.2	19.2	18.4
Boston prices									
Farm price	19.8	35.0	30.4	32.1	30.1	27.2	31.7	32.5	33.2
Price to retailer	30.2	45.1	40.6	41.8	40.2	39.0	40.5	42.5	44.0
Retail price	49.5	63.3	62.0	66.9	61.1	60.0	64.2	66.4	64.3
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	29.7	28.3	31.6	34.8	31.0	32.8	32.5	33.9	31.1
Farm to retailer	10.4	10.1	10.2	9.7	10.1	11.8	8.8	10.0	10.8
Retail	19.3	18.2	21.4	25.1	20.9	21.0	23.7	23.9	20.3
Chicago prices									
Farm price	18.1	33.0	28.7	29.3	27.2	26.0	27.6	30.6	33.7
Price to retailer	30.6	45.3	40.9	42.0	40.5	37.5	41.5	42.5	45.0
Retail price	40.4	59.7	55.7	61.4	50.0	56.3	54.6	58.4	60.9
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	22.3	26.7	27.0	32.1	22.8	30.3	27.0	27.8	27.2
Farm to retailer	12.5	12.3	12.2	12.7	13.3	11.5	13.9	11.9	11.3
Retail	9.8	14.4	14.8	19.4	9.5	18.8	13.1	15.9	15.9
St. Louis prices									
Farm price	18.4	33.6	29.6	29.5	27.6	26.7	28.3	31.5	34.3
Price to retailer	32.2	47.1	42.7	45.4	43.5	40.0	42.0	43.5	46.5
Retail price	42.9	61.0	57.9	59.1	58.6	55.0	56.4	60.9	63.7
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	24.5	27.4	28.3	29.6	31.0	28.3	28.1	29.4	29.4
Farm to retailer	13.8	13.5	13.1	15.9	15.9	13.3	13.7	12.0	12.2
Retail	10.7	13.9	15.2	13.7	15.1	15.0	14.4	17.4	17.2
San Francisco prices									
Farm price	20.8	33.8	32.1	32.2	29.3	28.9	31.6	34.3	32.9
Price to retailer	38.5	52.1	47.7	51.5	48.0	46.5	48.0	49.5	51.0
Retail price	46.7	65.8	60.8	63.7	59.6	59.5	60.8	60.7	65.1
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	25.9	32.0	28.7	31.5	30.3	30.6	29.2	26.4	32.2
Farm to retailer	17.7	18.3	15.6	19.3	18.7	17.6	16.4	15.2	18.1
Retail	8.2	13.7	13.1	12.2	11.6	13.0	12.8	11.2	14.1
Atlanta prices									
Farm price	17.9	32.9	28.8	29.6	27.1	25.8	28.0	30.8	33.4
Price to retailer			40.1				39.5	42.0	43.5
Retail price	40.2	58.8	55.3	58.5	51.1	50.1	58.1	60.8	56.9
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	22.3	25.9	26.5	28.9	24.0	24.3	30.1	30.0	23.5
Farm to retailer			11.3				11.5	11.2	10.1
Retail			15.2				18.6	18.8	13.4

[1] Selected cities and 10-city average. [2] 9-city average.

Table 12—Chickens: Number on farms by classes and by regions, December 1, 1965-74

Year	North Atlantic	E. North Central	W. North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	Alaska and Hawaii	United States
	1,000 head	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*
	HENS ONE YEAR OLD OR OLDER							
1965	22,138	20,704	21,001	25,605	28,889	26,342	277	144,956
1966	19,882	20,031	17,874	24,673	28,398	26,134	328	137,320
1967	17,925	20,375	17,959	24,660	29,457	28,780	393	139,549
1968	18,456	17,988	17,787	28,614	27,268	29,465	409	139,987
1969	19,151	17,644	15,320	29,048	26,031	29,138	542	136,874
1970	17,659	17,410	15,949	26,607	26,267	30,118	533	134,543
1971	18,101	18,292	16,333	27,756	26,003	31,132	540	138,157
1972	18,188	17,428	16,604	28,725	24,476	26,235	550	132,206
1973	18,243	15,882	15,815	25,649	24,062	27,372	465	127,488
1974	15,566	14,511	12,753	26,506	21,561	29,489	639	121,025
	PULLETS OF LAYING AGE							
1965	24,654	23,411	32,633	28,844	32,129	20,656	627	162,954
1966	26,708	25,449	34,689	35,306	38,898	22,065	592	183,707
1967	27,008	24,902	30,213	37,735	39,562	23,847	567	183,834
1968	25,253	24,755	23,557	34,089	39,696	22,912	588	170,850
1969	24,445	24,094	24,978	38,062	42,072	22,568	430	176,649
1970	26,298	26,637	26,987	41,095	41,778	26,076	431	189,302
1971	26,168	26,124	24,810	40,448	40,361	24,546	439	182,896
1972	25,118	25,015	21,453	36,291	39,249	22,278	436	169,840
1973	23,738	23,365	21,291	39,464	37,046	23,523	547	168,974
1974	25,070	23,518	21,227	34,423	35,974	22,837	427	163,476
	TOTAL HENS AND PULLETS OF LAYING AGE							
1965	46,792	44,115	53,634	54,449	61,018	46,998	904	307,910
1966	46,590	45,480	52,563	59,979	67,296	48,199	922	321,029
1967	44,933	45,277	48,172	62,395	69,019	52,627	960	323,383
1968	43,709	42,743	41,344	62,703	66,964	52,377	997	310,837
1969	43,596	41,738	40,298	67,110	68,103	51,706	972	313,523
1970	43,957	44,047	42,936	67,702	68,045	56,194	964	323,845
1971	44,269	44,416	41,143	68,204	66,364	55,678	979	321,053
1972	43,306	42,443	38,057	65,016	63,725	48,513	986	302,046
1973	41,981	39,247	37,106	65,113	61,108	50,895	1,012	296,462
1974	40,636	38,029	33,980	60,929	57,535	52,326	1,066	284,501
	PULLETS 3 MONTHS OLD AND OLDER NOT OF LAYING AGE							
1965	5,730	5,410	5,100	10,450	10,450	7,580	193	44,913
1966	6,320	6,080	5,100	12,080	11,750	7,870	198	49,398
1967	5,210	7,020	5,000	11,230	11,480	7,770	185	47,895
1968	5,030	6,120	4,410	13,030	12,913	7,770	200	49,473
1969	5,055	6,478	5,134	13,641	13,014	7,312	198	50,832
1970	5,147	6,380	5,374	12,398	12,194	8,618	181	50,292
1971	5,674	6,313	5,584	12,729	12,905	7,478	191	50,874
1972	5,346	5,763	4,784	12,921	12,624	7,201	195	48,834
1973	6,629	6,106	5,191	13,224	13,594	7,711	138	52,593
1974	5,510	6,149	5,127	11,558	10,838	7,303	155	46,640
	PULLETS UNDER 3 MONTHS OLD							
1965	4,940	4,500	2,400	9,300	10,500	8,700	171	40,511
1966	5,470	6,050	3,130	12,700	13,650	9,880	184	51,064
1967	4,450	6,100	3,200	10,900	12,300	9,100	190	46,240
1968	5,050	6,130	3,800	13,850	12,750	9,480	172	51,232
1969	4,927	6,280	3,964	13,486	12,815	9,481	130	51,083
1970	4,935	6,368	4,385	14,664	12,587	9,870	260	53,069
1971	5,365	6,269	3,833	12,062	12,350	7,137	270	47,286
1972	5,306	5,650	4,162	12,507	12,330	9,015	185	49,155
1973	6,335	6,599	5,039	15,857	13,788	9,507	182	57,307
1974	6,158	5,865	3,980	12,071	11,051	6,853	130	46,108
	OTHER CHICKENS							
1965	665	460	850	1,960	2,310	660	3	6,908
1966	675	455	820	2,170	2,460	630	4	7,214
1967	620	435	710	2,110	2,395	570	3	6,843
1968	570	400	550	2,050	2,375	480	4	6,429
1969	594	383	549	2,111	2,518	502	1	6,658
1970	564	391	598	2,157	2,480	506	1	6,697
1971	549	399	565	2,163	2,289	397	1	6,363
1972	560	340	529	2,113	2,349	314	1	6,206
1973	559	348	457	2,070	2,390	316	1	6,141
1974	496	299	452	1,894	1,991	411	1	5,544
	TOTAL ALL CHICKENS[1]							
1965	58,127	54,485	61,984	76,159	84,278	63,938	1,271	400,242
1966	59,055	58,065	61,613	86,929	95,156	66,579	1,308	428,705
1967	55,213	58,832	57,082	86,635	95,194	70,067	1,338	424,361
1968	54,359	55,393	50,104	91,633	95,002	70,107	1,373	417,971
1969	54,172	54,879	49,945	96,348	96,450	69,001	1,301	422,096
1970	54,603	57,186	53,293	96,921	95,306	75,188	1,406	433,903
1971	55,857	57,397	51,125	95,158	93,908	70,690	1,441	425,576
1972	54,518	54,196	47,532	92,557	91,028	65,043	1,367	406,241
1973	55,504	52,300	47,793	96,264	90,880	68,429	1,333	412,503
1974	52,800	50,342	43,539	86,452	81,415	66,893	1,352	382,793

[1] Excluding commercial broilers.

QUARTERLY PRODUCTION AND MARKETING COSTS FOR POULTRY AND EGGS

By
Verel W. Benson

ABSTRACT

Recent feed price fluctuations and increases in production costs have intensified the need for current poultry and egg production cost estimates. Quarterly production cost estimates were made based on monthly corn and soybean meal prices and on annual estimates of other production costs and marketing margins. These cost estimates tend to be indicative of the level and direction of changes in poultry and egg production costs.

KEYWORDS: eggs, broilers, turkeys, production, marketing, costs.

The feed price fluctuations of the past 2 years and the rapidly increasing input costs have increased the need for current production cost estimates. In response to this need, a cost estimating procedure developed during the operation of price controls was revised and computerized to provide a continuing set of quarterly production cost estimates. Although they are only preliminary estimates and do not exactly reflect the actual experience of individual producers, they are indicative of the level and direction of the changes in production costs.

Data are presently being collected across the country under cooperative agreement with the Georgia, Missouri, and Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Stations to use in devising continuing cost and returns series in greater depth and detail. These data will also materially improve the accuracy of present cost inputs and provide more precise estimates of the current net returns in the poultry industries.

The following tables present quarterly production and marketing cost estimates for broilers, eggs, and turkeys from 1972 to the present. The costs are estimated at the farm and wholesale levels. The farm level cost is the sum of the estimated feed cost per pound liveweight for broilers and turkeys and per dozen for eggs, and the estimated additional production costs such as chicks, medication, fuel and litter, labor, and overhead. A fixed annual marketing margin is added to the production cost per pound for ready-to-cook broilers and turkeys or per dozen eggs to arrive at a wholesale delivered cost. The farm to wholesale marketing margin is the sum of the estimated processing, shipping, and handling costs from the farm to the wholesale level. Production costs other than feed cost vary annually. These costs may overstate the costs for periods of peak seasonal production, i.e., spring egg production; however, they may also understate costs for low seasonal production levels. However, sufficient data are not presently available to estimate these cost differences more accurately.

Feed cost per ton is estimated as a function of the price of corn and soybean meal. Specified percentages of corn and soybean meal make up the rations for broilers, eggs, and turkeys. The monthly average Chicago corn and Decatur soybean meal prices were increased by a shipping cost differential and used as estimates of ingredient costs. In addition, ration costs were increased by 5 percent to account for the small quantities of more expensive ingredients which were added to balance the ration. Milling and distributing costs were also added to all rations.

The feed cost per pound liveweight for broilers and turkeys and per dozen eggs is presented separately since it shows the direct effect of feed ingredient costs on the cost of production. For example, the estimated effect of a 10 cent per bushel increase in the cost of corn on the feed cost is an increase of 0.28, 0.42, and 0.66 cents per pound for broilers and turkeys, and per dozen eggs, respectively. The estimated effect of

$10.00 per ton increase in the cost of 49 percent soybean meal on feed cost is an increase of 0.32, 0.44, and 0.42 cents per pound for broilers and turkeys and per dozen eggs, respectively. These approximate cost increases are based on the feed ration costs as estimated in this model and on feed conversion rates of 2.1 per pound for broilers, 3.1 per pound for turkeys, and 4.3 per dozen eggs.

Tables 1, 2, and 3 present the weighted average quarterly and annual cost, price, and net return estimates. Monthly estimates for broilers and turkeys were made and then weighted by federally inspected slaughter to obtain weighted quarterly and annual averages. Monthly egg estimates were weighted by total egg production less estimated eggs used for hatching. The feed prices used to determine the monthly feed cost per pound of broilers and turkeys and per dozen eggs were lagged 2 months for broilers, 3 months for turkeys, and 1 month for eggs. These lags were assumed to partially account for the lag between the purchase of feed ingredients and the sale of the final product.

The feed price lag and the quarterly averaging dampened the losses and potential losses during the price freeze of 1973. The post-price freeze and pre-price freeze profits offset any losses and the feed price lags matched the high corn and soybean meal costs with the high post-price freeze product prices.

The 1974 quarterly estimates indicate that all three commodities experienced losses in the spring and summer of 1974 with the loss per unit being the most extreme for the turkey industry. However, the broiler industry appears to have been in a net loss position since the post-price freeze pofits of the third quarter of 1973. In all, 1974 was a poor year for the poultry and egg industry. However, the turkey and egg industries were showing signs of improvement in the fourth quarter of 1974. The broiler industry profit-loss picture may also improve as the drop in feed ingredient costs of early 1975 is felt.

Table 1—Estimated production costs, total costs, and net returns for market eggs, 1972-74[1]

Period	Production costs		Total wholesale costs, cartoned Grade A large eggs[2 3]	Wholesale Grade A large egg prices 14 metro areas[3]	Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[3]	Total[2]			
	Cents per dozen all eggs		*Cents per dozen Grade A large cartoned eggs*		
1972					
1st quarter	16.2	27.8	42.2	38.2	-4.0
2nd quarter	17.0	28.6	42.9	35.5	-7.4
3rd quarter	17.5	29.1	43.4	41.4	-2.1
4th quarter	18.6	30.2	44.6	47.1	2.5
Annual average	17.3	28.9	43.3	40.5	-2.8
1973					
1st quarter	23.7	36.2	52.6	56.7	4.1
2nd quarter	27.0	39.5	55.9	56.4	0.5
3rd quarter	37.6	50.1	66.5	73.0	6.6
4th quarter	28.7	41.2	57.6	71.3	13.7
Annual average	29.2	41.7	58.1	64.3	6.2
1974[4]					
1st quarter	31.2	45.6	63.6	72.3	8.6
2nd quarter	27.4	41.8	59.9	52.1	-7.8
3rd quarter	31.4	45.8	63.8	59.9	-3.9
4th quarter	34.1	48.5	66.6	68.1	1.6
Annual average	31.0	45.4	63.5	63.1	-0.4

[1] Based on secondary data and incomplete data from survey. Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly egg production less estimated eggs used for hatching. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for Grade A large Eggs. [4] Preliminary. [5] May not add across due to rounding.

Table 2—Estimated production costs, total costs, and net returns for Broilers, 1972-74[1]

Period	Production costs		Total wholesale ready-to-cook costs[2 3]	9-city weighted average broiler price[2]	Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]			
	Cents per pound liveweight		*Cents per pound liveweight*		
1972					
1st quarter	8.3	13.6	27.2	27.8	0.6
2nd quarter	8.8	14.2	28.0	27.2	-0.7
3rd quarter	9.2	14.6	28.5	29.6	1.1
4th quarter	9.7	15.0	29.2	28.0	-1.2
Annual average	9.0	14.3	28.2	28.2	-0.1
1973					
1st quarter	12.2	18.0	34.0	37.0	3.0
2nd quarter	14.2	20.1	36.9	42.2	5.4
3rd quarter	21.2	27.0	46.5	52.8	6.3
4th quarter	17.6	23.4	41.5	37.2	-4.3
Annual average	16.4	22.2	39.8	42.4	2.6
1974[4]					
1st quarter	16.1	22.3	40.5	39.3	-1.2
2nd quarter	15.2	21.3	39.2	35.3	-3.9
3rd quarter	14.5	20.7	38.3	37.6	-0.7
4th quarter	17.7	23.8	42.6	40.4	-2.3
Annual average	15.8	22.0	40.1	38.0	-2.0

[1] Based on secondary data and incomplete data from survey. Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly broiler slaughter. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for ready-to-cook broilers. [4] Preliminary. [5] May not add across due to rounding.

Table 3—Estimated production costs, total costs, and net returns for Turkeys, 1972-74[1]

Period	Production costs		Total wholesale ready-to-cook costs[2 3]	New York heavy young hen turkey price[2]	Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]			
	Cents per pound liveweight		*Cents per pound ready-to-cook*		
1972					
1st quarter	11.9	18.9	32.2	36.9	4.7
2nd quarter	12.9	19.9	33.3	34.8	1.4
3rd quarter	13.5	20.5	34.1	35.3	1.2
4th quarter	14.1	21.1	34.9	38.5	3.7
Annual average	13.5	20.5	34.1	36.6	2.8
1973					
1st quarter	15.4	22.9	37.8	45.1	7.3
2nd quarter	19.8	27.3	43.3	55.9	12.6
3rd quarter	27.0	34.5	52.3	69.2	16.9
4th quarter	28.2	35.7	53.8	67.2	13.4
Annnual average	25.6	33.1	50.6	64.5	13.9
1974[4]					
1st quarter	22.1	30.3	48.4	49.9	1.6
2nd quarter	23.6	31.8	50.2	39.2	-11.0
3rd quarter	19.9	28.1	45.6	45.6	-0.1
4th quarter	24.8	33.0	51.7	52.1	0.4
Annual average	22.5	30.7	48.8	47.0	-1.8

[1] Based on secondary data and incomplete data from survey. Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly turkey slaughter. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for heavy young turkey hens. [4] Preliminary. [5] May not add across due to rounding.

Table 13—Selected poultry and egg statistics*

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 1, 5-6.—Number of layers on farms, rate of egg production, and total egg output on farms, 50 States														
Average for the month														
Number of layers on farms														
1973	Mil.	300	298	297	295	290	286	283	286	290	293	295	297	292
1974	Mil.	296	296	294	290	285	281	279	278	278	270	283	285	286
1975	Mil.	284												
Eggs laid per 100 layers														
1973	No.	1,901	1,742	1,954	1,915	1,991	1,908	1,941	1,908	1,836	1,899	1,847	1,917	228
1974	No.	1,920	1,759	1,977	1,932	2,006	1,938	1,975	1,955	1,879	1,930	1,870	1,934	231
1975	No.	1,950												
Total monthly egg production														
1973	Mil. cs.	15.8	14.4	16.1	15.7	16.0	15.1	15.3	15.2	14.8	15.4	15.2	15.8	184.9
1974	Mil. cs.	15.8	14.5	16.1	15.5	15.9	15.1	15.3	15.1	14.5	15.0	14.7	15.3	183.0
1975	Mil. cs.	15.4												
First of month														
Number of layers on farms														
1973	Mil.	301	300	297	298	292	288	283	283	289	291	294	296	
1974	Mil.	297	296	296	292	287	283	280	279	278	279	281	285	
1975	Mil.	285	283											
Eggs laid per 100 layers														
1973	No.	60.8	61.8	62.7	63.4	64.2	64.2	63.0	62.2	61.0	61.5	61.0	62.1	
1974	No.	61.6	62.3	63.4	64.1	64.7	64.8	64.3	63.1	63.0	62.1	62.3	62.8	
1975	No.	62.6	63.2											
Daily rate of egg production														
1973	Mil.	183	185	186	189	188	185	178	176	176	179	179	181	
1974	Mil.	183	185	188	187	187	183	180	177	175	174	175	179	
1975	Mil.	178	180											
Tables 7-9.—Factors in monthly supply of shell eggs, 50 States														
Eggs produced on farms														
1973	1,000 cs.	15,850	14,433	16,131	15,892	16,047	15,142	15,278	15,161	14,786	15,447	15,153	15,792	184,912
1974	1,000 cs.	15,808	14,463	16,142	15,544	15,872	15,136	15,328	15,111	14,531	15,039	14,703	15,300	182,967
1975	1,000 cs.	15,389												
Storage movement of shell eggs														
1973	1,000 cs.	76	-30	10	-60	2	34	-19	8	24	-14	-5	-33	-7
1974	1,000 cs.	-11	19	17	7	20	3	6	-30	1	9	-24	-15	+2
1975	1,000 cs.	-5												
Eggs broken commercially														
1973	1,000 cs.	1,143	1,280	1,456	1,406	1,699	1,862	1,678	1,665	1,596	1,805	1,450	1,210	18,241
1974	1,000 cs.	1,435	1,502	1,821	1,862	2,146	2,109	2,071	1,934	1,642	1,749	1,462	1,242	20,975
1975	1,000 cs.													
Eggs used for hatching														
1973	1,000 cs.	997	1,193	1,207	1,242	1,151	1,053	1,100	1,017	1,039	1,035	1,065	1,100	13,199
1974	1,000 cs.	1,014	1,187	1,188	1,213	1,110	1,002	968	879	878	908	987	998	12,332
1975	1,000 cs.													
Balance														
1973	1,000 cs.	13,834	11,990	13,458	13,104	13,195	12,193	12,519	12,471	12,127	12,621	12,643	13,524	153,479
1974	1,000 cs.	13,370	11,745	13,116	12,462	12,596	12,022	12,283	12,328	12,010	12,373	12,278	13,075	149,658
1975	1,000 cs.													
Tables 13-14.—Commercial production of poultry and red meat, 48 States														
Chicken and turkey meat, Ready-to-cook weight[1]														
1973	Mil. lb.	855	721	781	725	886	949	920	1,070	910	1,120	999	859	10,795
1974	Mil. lb.	933	766	806	832	944	920	1,002	1,023	898	1,015	800	768	10,707
1975	Mil. lb.													
Total red meat, carcass weight[2]														
1973	Mil. lb.	3,176	2,721	2,976	2,579	3,040	2,799	2,651	2,704	2,635	3,223	3,079	2,894	34,495
1974	Mil. lb.	3,254	2,659	3,088	3,153	2,799	2,944	3,028	3,135	3,072	3,469	3,152	3,091	37,319
1975	Mil. lb.													
Table 25.—Chicken certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weight														
Young														
1973	Mil. lb.	562.1	566.2	621.4	594.4	712.1	680.0	673.6	703.5	609.5	733.5	641.7	588.2	7,786
1974	Mil. lb.	713.1	601.2	641.9	672.4	745.0	687.2	720.1	713.8	621.1	686.9	524.5	589.6	7,917
1975	Mil. lb.													
Mature														
1973	Mil. lb.	46.7	47.5	47.0	46.8	45.3	48.2	39.1	34.7	38.7	47.8	40.9	38.7	522
1974	Mil. lb.	49.2	44.6	51.0	50.8	53.0	45.7	40.6	45.1	35.2	41.6	40.1	38.1	535
1975	Mil. lb.													

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 13—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Table 25.—Chicken certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights—Continued														
Total														
1973	Mil. lb.	708.8	613.7	668.4	641.2	757.4	728.2	712.8	738.2	648.1	781.3	682.6	626.9	8,308
1974	Mil. lb.	762.3	645.8	692.9	723.3	798.0	732.9	760.7	758.9	656.2	728.6	564.6	627.7	8,452
1975	Mil. lb.													
Table 26.—Turkey certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights														
Fryer-roasters														
1973	Mil. lb.	6.7	7.6	9.4	7.4	6.3	8.2	7.5	6.8	6.6	8.0	8.8	7.8	91
1974	Mil. lb.	8.9	9.1	8.9	8.3	10.6	11.1	10.0	9.7	5.9	8.0	5.4	3.9	100
1975	Mil. lb.													
Young turkeys														
1973	Mil. lb.	62.0	33.2	35.1	47.4	75.3	129.4	173.5	225.9	204.5	264.1	260.8	166.5	1,678
1974	Mil. lb.	87.3	49.4	48.6	69.0	100.6	144.9	199.2	225.8	213.3	252.4	209.7	115.8	1,716
1975	Mil. lb.													
Old turkeys														
1973	Mil. lb.	1.0	.8	.9	1.0	2.7	5.3	4.0	1.5	1.2	.5	.2	.3	19
1974	Mil. lb.	1.1	1.3	1.4	2.8	2.1	3.8	3.8	1.7	.9	.6	.1	.3	20
1975	Mil. lb.													
Total turkeys														
1973	Mil. lb.	69.7	41.6	45.3	55.8	84.2	142.9	185.0	234.1	212.3	272.6	269.9	174.6	1,788
1974	Mil. lb.	97.3	59.8	58.9	80.1	113.2	159.7	213.1	237.2	220.2	261.1	215.2	119.9	1,836
1975	Mil. lb.													
Table 27.—Ducks, and total poultry certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights														
Ducks														
1973	Mil. lb.	2.6	2.2	2.7	4.1	5.7	5.5	5.3	5.0	4.1	4.8	4.0	3.2	49
1974	Mil. lb.	3.0	2.3	2.5	4.4	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.0	5.1	3.5	3.2	51
1975	Mil. lb.													
Total poultry														
1973	Mil. lb.	781.2	657.6	716.6	701.2	847.5	876.8	903.2	977.5	864.6	1,059.8	958.4	804.9	10,149
1974	Mil. lb.	862.8	708.0	754.4	807.8	916.9	898.5	979.8	1,001.8	881.6	996.1	785.1	751.2	10,344
1975	Mil. lb.													
Table 28.—Chicken and turkey inspected for further processing in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights														
Chicken														
Young														
1973	Mil. lb.	40.1	34.7	37.9	40.0	40.6	38.6	37.8	43.2	40.4	48.7	44.6	38.8	485
1974	Mil. lb.	45.1	41.7	46.8	45.8	44.0	38.3	36.3	40.7	39.3	41.9	42.7	33.3	496
1975	Mil. lb.													
Mature														
1973	Mil. lb.	42.6	40.0	48.0	43.2	45.4	41.6	36.9	38.0	36.4	41.1	35.0	33.1	481
1974	Mil. lb.	45.8	40.4	40.6	38.5	36.8	27.2	24.7	34.5	34.0	40.7	33.1	28.0	423
1975	Mil. lb.													
Total														
1973	Mil. lb.	82.8	74.7	85.9	83.2	86.0	80.2	74.7	81.2	76.8	89.7	79.6	71.9	967
1974	Mil. lb.	90.9	82.1	87.4	84.3	79.7	65.5	61.1	75.1	73.3	82.5	75.8	61.3	919
1975	Mil. lb.													
Turkey														
1973	Mil. lb.	43.2	40.1	48.3	38.4	43.1	53.9	67.4	89.3	83.6	116.9	100.9	65.8	791
1974	Mil. lb.	54.9	41.2	44.6	47.9	60.5	72.4	90.8	110.0	101.4	117.6	88.1	66.9	896
1975	Mil. lb.													
Table 32.—Per capita consumption of shell eggs														
Shell equivalent:														
1973	No.	23.4	20.5	23.1	22.4	22.5	20.8	21.4	21.2	20.7	21.4	21.5	23.0	262
1974	No.	22.5	19.6	22.0	20.8	21.1	20.0	20.5	20.6	19.9	20.7	20.5	21.8	250
1975	No.													
Tables 34-41.—Egg prices: Monthly average price per dozen for shell eggs														
United States, received by farmers[3]														
1973	Cents	50.0	42.8	46.9	46.9	45.5	50.4	51.9	68.7	63.9	59.3	59.3	63.8	54.1
1974	do.	66.6	64.1	56.6	50.4	42.0	39.4	43.2	47.2	54.3	55.5	55.5	59.0	52.8
1975	do.	57.1												
Grade A large eggs in retail stores[4 5]														
1973	do.	73.9	68.8	66.4	67.7	67.7	71.5	73.8	96.8	91.9	87.4	82.5	89.1	78.1
1974	do.	93.0	94.5	85.6	78.1	64.9	62.5	62.3	71.1	79.0	83.9	81.0	84.1	78.3
1975	do.	84.2												

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 13—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 34-41.—Monthly average price per dozen shell eggs—Continued														
Iowa, received by farmers														
Buyer quality and volume incentive														
Large														
1973	Cents	43.52	34.75	40.78	40.40	39.14	46.37	52.94	67.13	59.71	54.23	55.69	61.01	49.64
1974	do.	63.16	58.33	50.90	42.52	31.57	31.08	36.27	42.45	49.58	49.81	49.85	54.89	46.68
1975	do.	50.25												
Medium														
1973	do.	39.62	29.24	34.59	34.89	34.90	40.37	44.48	58.58	48.42	46.00	48.62	58.74	43.04
1974	do.	57.99	51.32	43.98	33.12	22.59	20.61	27.86	33.59	43.82	45.14	43.38	49.06	39.37
1975	do.	44.32												
Los Angeles, delivered to retailers[6]														
Large														
1973	do.	65.79	60.60	62.91	59.45	55.73	56.55	61.17	81.37	76.13	69.50	69.20	72.83	65.94
1974	do.	75.73	71.34	61.24	56.21	54.50	51.60	55.86	60.55	67.60	64.12	64.30	70.07	62.76
1975	do.	68.32												
Medium														
1973	do.	63.68	57.60	59.91	56.45	52.73	53.26	57.31	77.76	69.55	63.07	63.40	70.56	62.12
1974	do.	73.73	67.08	57.19	52.50	45.77	44.50	47.59	52.77	62.15	60.26	63.20	69.07	57.98
1975	do.	67.32												
New York, wholesale prices, white														
Large, 75 percent A														
1973	do.	54.29	45.14	50.89	50.25	48.94	56.46	64.70	76.26	68.28	63.07	66.92	71.78	59.75
1974	do.	74.00	68.29	60.20	52.06	42.71	42.83	48.96	55.84	63.07	61.69	61.21	67.26	58.18
1975	do.	62.18												
Medium														
1973	do.	52.40	41.40	47.44	46.45	45.68	50.93	57.48	71.39	60.89	59.39	63.24	70.50	55.60
1974	do.	72.00	62.42	55.67	44.03	34.27	32.33	41.57	47.84	58.09	58.40	58.89	64.42	52.33
1975	do.	57.75												
Midwest, paid delivered[7]														
Large														
1973	do.	52.55	43.12	49.94	50.00	48.56	56.19	65.00	76.56	68.94	63.22	66.44	71.31	59.46
1974	do.	76.50	71.25	63.50	56.25	47.00	47.00	51.12	58.10	66.00	65.20	64.13	70.63	61.39
1975	do.	66.20												
Medium														
1973	do.	49.22	39.38	45.75	45.75	46.30	51.81	57.88	69.56	59.12	57.89	61.66	67.69	54.12
1974	do.	74.10	64.38	58.00	48.25	38.60	36.50	43.12	48.70	60.50	62.30	60.25	67.25	55.16
1975	do.	62.00												
Table 42.—Egg prices: Monthly average price per pound for frozen egg products														
New York and Philadelphia														
Frozen egg														
Whole egg, light colored														
1973	Cents	31.31	30.94	34.26	36.52	37.52	44.56	47.69	59.09	54.89	47.28	42.06	44.29	42.52
1974	do.	47.20	50.23	46.90	36.00	33.64	32.11	33.91	39.49	43.44	40.17	36.82	37.83	39.71
1975	do.	36.11												
White														
1973	do.	17.87	17.50	17.47	17.97	18.75	23.03	25.39	33.31	27.47	21.26	17.75	15.96	21.18
1974	do.	16.53	17.38	16.50	15.73	15.75	16.46	16.37	19.51	22.65	20.18	17.84	18.12	17.75
1975	do.	17.36												
Yolks, light colored, sugared, 43 percent solids														
1973	do.	48.69	48.53	55.31	56.46	59.63	70.89	75.61	91.94	90.54	88.33	84.13	85.79	71.32
1974	do.	87.09	89.51	84.42	69.47	60.00	60.23	64.44	72.83	78.94	76.97	74.04	72.61	74.21
1975	do.	69.21												
Tables 44-47.—Average broiler prices per pound														
Liveweight														
United States, at farm														
1973	Cents	17.2	19.8	23.2	25.2	23.8	24.3	27.6	36.5	29.7	23.7	19.4	19.3	24.1
1974	do.	20.9	23.7	22.5	21.2	20.6	18.6	20.4	20.4	22.6	22.5	24.0	21.9	21.8
1975	do.	24.2												

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 13—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 44-47.—Average broiler prices per pound—Continued														
Broilers, weighted average, delivered to major areas[5]														
9-City average[6]														
1973	Cents	32.78	37.28	41.13	43.58	41.57	41.69	49.06	60.30	48.36	40.01	34.45	36.12	42.17
1974	do.	39.69	39.41	38.76	36.30	35.64	34.06	36.41	36.84	39.89	39.32	41.94	40.71	38.25
1975	do.	41.64												
Chicago														
1973	do.	32.5	36.0	40.9	44.2	41.0	41.3	47.1	60.0	48.1	39.9	34.8	36.6	41.9
1974	do.	39.3	39.8	38.5	36.4	35.5	33.8	36.3	36.7	39.8	39.0	41.8	40.2	38.1
1975	do.	42.8												
New York														
1973	do.	32.3	37.6	40.8	44.3	41.0	42.0	48.2	59.9	48.4	40.1	33.8	35.3	42.0
1974	do.	38.5	38.5	37.6	33.6	34.8	33.9	35.7	36.2	39.5	39.3	41.4	39.8	37.4
1975	do.	41.6												
Los Angeles														
1973	do.	34.2	37.5	42.8	45.0	42.1	41.5	47.4	60.2	48.6	39.8	35.7	38.0	42.7
1974	do.	41.2	41.5	40.5	38.1	36.6	34.8	38.0	38.1	40.8	40.2	42.8	41.0	39.5
1975	do.	43.4												
Frying chicken in retail stores[4]														
1973	do.	44.0	45.9	59.9	58.7	58.4	57.9	59.7	92.2	72.8	58.3	54.5	53.2	59.6
1974	do.	59.2	58.7	57.5	55.6	52.2	51.2	51.8	53.5	57.0	56.2	58.2	60.4	56.6
1975	do.	59.2												
Chicken breasts, in retail stores[4]														
1973	do.	80.5	84.4	100.2	100.0	99.6	100.2	101.5	139.6	115.8	102.8	99.7	97.8	101.8
1974	do.	100.1	100.4	99.9	98.0	96.8	94.4	94.6	97.3	99.3	99.0	100.5	102.5	98.5
1975	do.	102.2												
Tables 50-54.—Average turkey prices per pound														
Liveweight[3]														
U.S., at farm														
1973	Cents	24.3	24.5	28.3	31.6	31.9	33.8	34.1	41.1	42.7	42.7	41.7	40.3	34.8
1974	do.	35.4	32.3	32.0	27.5	24.4	23.5	23.1	26.6	26.7	27.3	29.8	31.3	28.3
1975	do.	31.8												
Turkeys in retail stores[4]														
1973	do.	56.4	57.2	59.0	64.6	68.2	71.6	72.9	79.6	85.5	90.5	89.6	86.4	73.5
1974	do.	85.4	80.4	79.6	75.8	70.5	68.1	65.9	66.0	69.8	71.2	71.0	68.9	72.7
1975	do.	70.8												
Wholesale frozen (average f.o.b. or equivalent)														
New York:														
Young hens, 8-16 pounds														
1973	do.	41.4	41.6	54.1	55.0	56.5	55.9	56.6	74.0	75.0	71.1	66.2	59.2	58.8
1974	do.	48.6	51.3	50.7	42.2	39.7	37.4	39.7	49.6	47.0	48.2	53.6	57.9	47.2
1975	do.	51.6												
Young toms, 14-20 pounds														
1973	do.	42.0	42.5	49.6	50.4	53.8	55.6	55.8	70.9	72.6	63.8	60.8	60.2	56.5
1974	do.	48.2	48.0	46.7	39.4	38.4	34.5	37.0	43.1	42.6	45.7	50.6	52.8	43.9
1975	do.	49.1												
Paid at seller's dock, frozen														
New York														
Hens, 12-14 pounds														
1973	do.	43.0	44.1	55.9	57.2	59.4	58.8	59.8	76.0	79.0	74.4	71.3	66.0	62.2
1974	do.	58.6	55.4	55.7	47.5	44.1	41.3	41.5	52.7	52.1	52.3	57.2	61.9	51.7
1975	do.													
Toms, heaviest weights quoted														
1973	do.	45.1	46.6	56.0	57.7	60.6	67.8	69.4	81.1	86.0	84.2	80.2	71.2	67.3
1974	do.	60.7	54.2	51.9	46.3	48.4	52.5	52.6	55.8	55.7	54.4	58.3	58.8	53.9
1975	do.													
Chicago														
Hens, 12-14 pounds														
1973	do.	43.5	43.3	53.2	55.7	57.7	58.6	58.8	73.4	76.2	74.2	70.4	64.5	60.8
1974	do.	51.1	51.8	52.1	46.4	43.0	38.5	41.0	48.0	50.5	50.6	54.9	60.6	48.9
1975	do.													
Toms, heaviest weights quoted														
1973	do.	43.8	47.4	53.4	54.4	58.7	66.5	66.8	—	—	—	79.8	75.7	60.6
1974	do.	63.2	57.9	54.9	43.7	46.0	50.3	50.7	52.0	56.3	55.4	55.5	57.0	53.6
1975	do.													
Tables 57-60.—Prices paid for poults, poultry feed, and feed ingredients; and product-feed price ratios														
All poults each														
1973	Cents	54.5	56.3	57.3	57.8	58.4	60.2	60.8	64.1	64.7	67.8	65.0	64.0	60.9
1974	do.	64.8	65.1	67.0	68.3	67.9	69.0	68.4	67.4	67.3	67.4	67.2	66.8	67.4
1975	do.	68.7												

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 13—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 57-60.—Price paid for poults, poultry feed, and feed ingredients; and product-feed price ratios—Continued														
Feed per ton														
Laying feed														
1973	Dollars	111	117	122	118	131	157	147	165	148	144	138	150	137
1974	do.	152	153	151	144	137	137	141	168	163	168	167	164	153
1975	do.	160												
Broiler grower feed														
1973	do.	120	128	133	130	146	168	163	182	169	163	155	165	152
1974	do.	170	169	165	156	151	151	157	180	176	185	183	180	169
1975	do.	176												
Turkey grower feed														
1973	do.	121	131	137	133	152	179	177	193	176	170	158	167	158
1974	do.	172	172	168	162	156	153	158	188	183	189	187	184	173
1975	do.	178												
Corn, Chicago No. 2 yellow (per bushel)														
1973	Cents	157	160	159	164	201	243	252	297	246	233	256	268	220
1974	do.	293	310	301	246	269	292	329	365	353	385	349	355	321
1975	do.	309												
Soybean meal, 44 percent, Decatur (per ton, bulk)														
1973	Dollars	188	219	200	203	315	412	311	285	208	160	167	192	238
1974	do.	172	160	147	117	109	100	138	156	138	168	141	143	141
1975	do.	129												
Product-feed price ratios														
Broiler[10]														
1973	Pounds	2.9	3.1	3.5	3.9	3.3	2.9	3.4	4.0	3.5	2.9	2.5	2.3	3.2
1974	do.	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.3	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.6
1975	do.	2.8												
Turkey[11]														
1973	do.	4.0	3.7	4.1	4.8	4.2	3.8	3.9	4.3	4.9	5.0	5.3	4.8	4.4
1974	do.	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.4	3.1	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.2	3.4	3.3
1975	do.	3.6												
Egg[12]														
1973	do.	9.0	7.3	7.7	7.9	6.9	6.4	7.1	8.3	8.6	8.2	8.6	8.5	7.9
1974	do.	8.8	8.4	7.5	7.0	6.1	5.8	6.1	5.6	6.7	6.6	6.6	7.2	6.9
1975	do.	7.1												
Tables 61-62.—Chicks hatched by types and pullet chicks placed														
Chicks hatched														
Broiler-type														
1973	Mil.	261.7	241.9	287.4	289.4	298.0	282.7	258.4	270.4	246.3	249.5	253.9	267.5	3,207.0
1974	Mil.	277.3	254.0	296.3	288.3	297.6	275.6	251.0	244.3	221.4	217.4	228.7	252.7	3,104.7
1975	Mil.	252.6												
Egg-type														
1973	Mil.	38.6	41.5	52.0	54.0	55.4	44.7	41.2	42.5	42.9	46.0	40.3	35.3	534.3
1974	Mil.	35.5	38.0	45.7	53.7	51.8	44.0	37.4	34.5	31.6	35.5	32.7	31.5	471.9
1975	Mil.	35.0												
Pullet chicks placed domestically for broiler hatchery supply flocks[13]														
Total														
1973	Thou.	2,390	2,170	3,056	3,048	2,958	2,527	2,406	2,588	2,653	2,921	2,306	2,383	31,495
1974	Thou.	2,489	2,474	2,906	2,795	2,754	2,525	2,259	2,288	2,160	2,141	2,171	2,302	29,264
1975	Thou.	2,199												
Cumulation relevant to breeder flock[14]														
1973	Thou.	21,579	21,779	21,515	21,473	21,720	21,415	20,356	19,960	19,436	19,739	20,257	20,717	
1974	Thou.	20,769	20,893	21,232	21,495	22,246	21,496	20,831	20,362	20,309	20,720	20,927	21,028	
1975	Thou.	20,632	20,585	20,490	20,161	19,828	19,093	18,600	18,045					
1976	Thou.													
For laying flock replacements[15]														
1973	Thou.	21,690	22,938	29,056	30,029	30,639	24,891	23,075	23,826	24,082	25,908	22,474	20,015	298,623
1974	Thou.	20,263	21,483	25,762	29,667	28,630	24,509	20,955	19,540	17,973	19,911	18,511	18,028	265,232
1975	Thou.	19,685												
Table 63.—Poults hatched by breeds														
Poults hatched														
Light breeds														
1973	Thou.	1,436	1,137	1,501	1,276	1,130	1,536	1,683	1,465	1,180	1,218	1,551	1,566	16,679
1974	Thou.	1,322	1,210	1,557	1,509	1,371	1,357	1,038	745	515	1,185	1,302	1,301	14,412
1975	Thou.	1,226												
Total heavy breeds														
1973	Thou.	8,278	12,020	16,737	19,357	20,585	17,947	12,170	5,809	2,865	2,725	3,895	6,518	128,906
1974	Thou.	9,545	12,727	17,933	19,258	18,741	15,701	11,657	5,262	2,631	2,995	3,704	5,203	125,357
1975	Thou.	7,490												
All breeds														
1973	Thou.	9,714	13,157	18,238	20,633	21,715	19,483	13,853	7,274	4,045	3,943	5,446	8,084	145,585
1974	Thou.	10,867	13,937	19,490	20,767	20,112	17,058	12,695	6,007	3,146	4,180	5,006	6,504	139,769
1975	Thou.	8,716												

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 13—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Table 66.—Cold storage holdings of shell and frozen eggs, first of month														
All frozen eggs														
1973	Mil. lb.	68.1'	57.2	53.4	48.9	45.9	44.4	45.7	47.9	48.7	52.6	54.1	48.5	
1974	Mil. lb.	43.2	37.7	35.8	39.4	43.6	49.5	55.2	59.5	63.9	66.2	65.3	60.1	
1975	Mil. lb.	54.5	51.2											
Shell eggs														
1973	1,000 cs.	41	117	87	97	37	39	73	54	62	86	72	67	
1974	1,000 cs.	34	23	42	59	66	86	89	95	65	66	75	51	
1975	1,000 cs.	36	31											
Shell equivalent of all eggs														
1973	1,000 cs.	1,766	1,566	1,439	1,335	1,198	1,162	1,231	1,267	1,295	1,418	1,442	1,295	
1974	1,000 cs.	1,128	978	949	1,057	1,169	1,340	1,486	1,602	1,684	1,742	1,729	1,573	
1975	1,000 cs.	1,417	1,327											
Tables 68-69.—Cold storage holdings of poultry, first of the month														
Total frozen														
Turkey														
1973	Mil. lb.	208.1	188.4	152.6	115.4	91.3	88.1	137.1	199.4	261.2	350.7	450.5	321.1	
1974	Mil. lb.	281.0	274.0	243.1	226.3	215.6	227.1	265.5	333.7	430.5	529.5	553.8	370.8	
1975	Mil. lb.	274.6	266.7											
Chicken														
Hens														
1973	Mil. lb.	34.8	35.1	37.1	31.0	29.2	26.3	29.5	28.4	24.9	30.3	37.1	47.3	
1974	Mil. lb.	47.2	43.9	41.2	44.4	45.6	54.8	59.5	64.3	65.6	61.4	60.0	54.3	
1975	Mil. lb.	54.0	55.8											
Broilers, fryers and roasters														
1973	Mil. lb.	29.1	27.9	23.3	21.2	21.8	20.2	20.0	19.1	22.2	27.6	33.2	31.5	
1974	Mil. lb.	33.4	32.5	36.7	34.7	33.8	37.5	36.8	34.9	33.4	35.6	35.7	36.4	
1975	Mil. lb.	37.3	31.8											
Tables 70-71.—Exports of fresh or frozen poultry														
Broilers														
1973	Thou. lb.	7,365	8,526	6,958	6,028	7,335	7,205	7,186	6,595	6,695	9,515	9,755	10,635	93,796
1974	Thou. lb.	11,159	9,672	13,610	9,511	8,106	8,014	13,272	8,890	8,179	8,650	7,866	8,413	115,340
1975	Thou. lb.													
Turkeys														
1973	Thou. lb.	2,927	3,180	4,806	1,712	1,613	3,245	4,175	5,392	5,016	5,236	6,678	5,980	49,960
1974	Thou. lb.	4,386	3,477	4,732	2,196	2,770	3,574	2,897	2,788	1,924	4,108	3,664	3,078	39,594
1975	Thou. lb.													
Tables 72-75.—USDA contracts to purchase chicken, and turkey														
Young chickens, ready-to-cook wt.														
1973	Mil. lb.	14.0	5.5	8.9	—	—	—	—	—	6.6	11.4	10.7	4.7	61.5
1974	Mil. lb.	9.3	8.7	—	—	—	—	1.9	3.5	3.0	6.5	7.1	7.9	30.0
1975	Mil. lb.	3.8												
Canned boned chicken														
1973	Doz. cans	261.8	200.6	47.6	268.6	129.2	428.4	214.2	37.4	187.0	91.8	285.6	153.0	2,305.2
1974	Doz. cans	193.8	193.8	—	—	—	—	91.8	234.6	224.4	163.1	13.6	—	1,115.1
1975	Doz. cans													
Canned boney turkey														
1973	Doz. cans	104.7	89.8	—	18.7	22.4	37.4	34.0	139.4	119.0	142.8	10.2	153.0	871.4
1974	Doz. cans	95.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	95.2
1975	Doz. cans													
Turkey, ready-to-cook wt.														
1973	Mil. lb.	—	—	1.5	5.0	—	—	—	2.4	10.1	11.3	5.3	—	35.6
1974	Mil. lb.	—	—	—	—	—	—	9.3	3.1	15.8	9.7	3.7	9.8	51.4
1975	Mil. lb.													

[1]Chicken and turkey meat, excludes slaughter on farms. [2]Excludes farm slaughter, lard and rendered pork fat. [3]Price reported as a price at mid-month. [4]Reported by Bureau of Labor Statistics. Prices are collected on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the week that includes the first Tuesday of the month. [5]Includes price for Grade AA eggs in Anchorage, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle, and Grade AA and ungraded eggs in some small cities. [6]Weighted average price to volume buyers for Consumer Grade A white eggs in cartons delivered to store door. [7]Prices paid by first receivers for cartoned Grade A eggs delivered FOB Midwestern cities. Prior to January 1974, reported as average price paid delivered to Chicago, loose, white, minimum 80 percent A. [8]Truckiot sales of U.S. Grade A and plant grade ready-to-cook, ice-packed broiler-fryers. [9]Computed by weighting the city averages by their metropolitan area populations. The 9 cities are: Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and San Francisco. [10]Pounds of broiler grower equal in value to 1 lb. of broiler liveweight. [11]Pounds of turkey grower equal in value to 1 lb. of turkey liveweight. [12]Pounds of laying feed equal in value to 1 dozen eggs. [13]Placements reported by leading breeders. [14]Sum of domestic placements 7-14 months previous. [15]One-half egg-type chick hatch plus pullet chicks placed for hatchery supply flocks.

LIST OF TABLES

Table	*Title*	*Page*
1	Poultry and Egg Situation at a Glance	2
2	Egg-type chick hatchery operations, United States and 5 States reporting weekly, 1973-74—1974-75	7
3	Forced molt layers as a percent of hens and pullets of laying age, first of month, selected States, 1973-75	7
4	Egg supplies available to civilians for food, by quarters, 1973-74	12
5	Cold storage holdings of high protein foods, February 1, 1975, with comparisons	13
6	Broilers: Eggs set and broiler chicks placed weekly in 21 commercial broiler producing States, 1972-75	14
7	Poults hatched per breeder hen on January 1, September-February, March-August, and September-August, 1960-75	20
8	Turkeys: Monthly hatchings by breed type advanced to indicate prospective month of marketing, 48 States, 1973-75	21
9	Turkey hatchery operations, United States and 6-9 States reporting weekly, 1973-75	21
10	Prices and price spreads for large eggs, 1972-74	23
11	Prices and price spreads for frying chicken, 1972-74	24
12	Chickens: Number on Farms by classes and by regions, December 1, 1965-74	25
13	Selected poultry and egg statistics	29

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, $300

NOTICE: If you don't want future issues of this ERS publication, check here ☐ and mail this sheet to the address below.

If your address should be changed, write your new address on this sheet and mail it to:

Automated Mailing List Section
Office of Plant and Operations
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
AGR 101
FIRST CLASS

9084 GAINMR300A112 18012 0001
M GAINEY
XEROX/UNIVERSITY MICROFILMS
300 N ZEEB RD
ANN ARBOR MI 48106

PES-285 MARCH 1975

SOUND OFF

What do you like about this publication? _____

What don't you like about it? _____

How can we improve it? _____

Your name and organization: _____

Return this to: W. E. Cathcart
USDA/ERS/CED
500 12th Street, S.W. Room 291
Washington, D.C. 20250

THANKS!